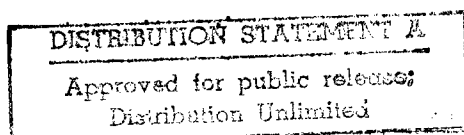


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Latin America Report



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22 October 1985

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

| | |
|---|---|
| Chile, Mexico May Not Renew Trade Pact (EL MERCURIO, 7 Sep 85) | 1 |
|---|---|

ARGENTINA

| | |
|--|----|
| Air Force Chief of Staff Attends Junta Trial (NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, 5 Oct 85) | 2 |
| Army Officers Placed Under House Arrest (TELAM, 3 Oct 85) | 3 |
| President's Message Read at Liberal International Congress (TELAM, 3 Oct 85) | 4 |
| Vice President Returns From South Korea, U.S. (NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, 4 Sep 85) | 6 |
| Ubal dini Denies Labor Setting Deadlines (BUENOS AIRES HERALD, 26 Sep 85) | 7 |
| Briefs | |
| Socialist Party Leaves FREJULI | 9 |
| Peronists Postpone Primaries | 9 |
| Meeting With Labor Minister | 9 |
| Ubal dini Praises Debt Approach | 10 |
| Alfonsin Meets With Brizola | 10 |
| Alfonsin's Message to Sarney | 10 |
| Alfonsin Advocates Dialogue | 10 |
| Flour Exported to Angola | 10 |
| Retired General Freed | 11 |

CHILE

| | |
|--|----|
| Central Bank Reports 1.7 Percent Growth in First Half of 1985 (LA NACION, 7 Sep 85) | 12 |
|--|----|

| | |
|---|----|
| National Coal Enterprise Plans 3-Year Investment Program (EL MERCURIO, 9 Sep 85) | 14 |
| AD Scores Harassment of Student, Union Leaders (Radio Chilena, 2 Oct 85) | 17 |
| University Students To Hold Demonstration 9 Oct (AFP, 9 Oct 85) | 19 |
| Briefs | |
| Police Capture 4 Communists | 20 |
| Minister Attends Costa Rica Meeting | 20 |
| Skeleton Found in Carabineros Post | 20 |
| New Truck Owners Leader | 21 |
| Swiss Ambassador Presents Credentials | 21 |
| Canadian Ambassador Approved | 21 |
| Ambassador to Lebanon | 21 |
| Puerto Montt Mayor | 21 |
| New Radio in Temuco | 21 |
| Police Official Appointed | 21 |
| University Official Appointed | 21 |
| Valparaiso UC Rector Appointed | 21 |
| Fishing Industry Growing | 22 |
| Military Ship Launched | 22 |
| Students Stage Vigil | 22 |
| Gold Plan Creates Jobs | 22 |
| Army, Navy Promotions Announced | 22 |

COLOMBIA

| | |
|--|----|
| Bishops Warn Against Subversive Plan (EL TIEMPO, 28 Sep 85) | 24 |
| Briefs | |
| Reduction of Interest Rates | 26 |

MEXICO

| | |
|--|----|
| Sources of Opposition Strength in Chihuahua Identified (Salvador Martinez, Aurelio Ramos M.; EXCELSIOR, various dates) | 27 |
|--|----|

NICARAGUA

| | |
|--|----|
| Center for Abandoned, Working Children To Open (BARRICADA, 9 Aug 85) | 52 |
| Transportation Department Reports Accident Statistics (BARRICADA, 9 Aug 85) | 54 |

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Briefs | 56 |
| Swedish Donation | 56 |
| Hungarian Medicines | 57 |
| Milk Production Project | |

PERU

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Briefs | 58 |
| New Ambassador to Switzerland | 58 |
| French Cameraman Reports Confiscation | 58 |
| Mirage Loses Missile in Flight | |

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Briefs | 59 |
| Colombia-Link Drug Concerns | |

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

| | |
|--|----|
| Donaldson Spurns PNM Post, Cites Intraparty 'Struggle' (Francis Joseph; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 16 Sep 85) | 60 |
| Chambers' Speeches Address Various Issues; Protest Noted (EXPRESS, 10, 12 Sep 85; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 16 Sep 85) ... | 61 |
| Comment on Debts, by Ria Taitt | 61 |
| Corruption Issue, by Ria Taitt | 63 |
| Protests in Arima | 64 |
| Strife on Labor Front, Other Developments Reported (EXPRESS; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates) | 65 |
| OWTU-Labour Congress Row | 65 |
| NUGFW Leadership Question | 66 |
| Weekes Calls for Unity | 66 |
| Freeze on Union Funds, by Irma Rambaran | 68 |
| Strike at TRINTOC | 68 |
| Threat to Tire Plant | 69 |
| 'Menace' of Leftist Unions, Editorial | 70 |
| Warning to TRINTOC | 71 |
| Union, Opposition Unity, by Heather Hollingsworth | 72 |
| Labor Unrest Stirs Unions, Employers, Government (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN; EXPRESS, various dates) | 73 |
| Employers' Statement | 73 |
| OWTU Statement | 74 |
| Union Unity | 77 |
| Government-Ordered Probe, by Harry Partap | 77 |
| Arrest of OWTU Officers | 78 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Weekes 'Conspiracy' Charge | 78 |
| Call for General Strike | 79 |
| Complaint Against Tire Plant | 79 |
| Disruption at Metal Box | 80 |
| Trade With Latin America Seen as Solution To Slow Economy (Vashty Maharaj; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 13 Sep 85) | 81 |
| Imports From Caricom Nations Fall From High Point in 1983 (EXPRESS, 14 Sep 85) | 83 |
| Chambers, Mottley Discuss Far East Trip, TRINTOC, Labor (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates) | 84 |
| TRINTOC, Trade Issues | 84 |
| Mottley Reply to Critics, by Clevon Raphael | 85 |
| Remarks on Industrial Relations, by Clevon Raphael | 86 |
| PRC Envoy's Message | 87 |
| Reportage on NAR Policies, Statements, Actions (Various sources, various dates) | 88 |
| Platform Highlights, by Debra Ransome | 88 |
| Robinson Speech, by A.N.R. Robinson | 90 |
| Panday Address, by Basdeo Panday | 96 |
| Hudson-Phillips Remarks, by Clevon Raphael | 101 |
| Appointment of Officers | 102 |
| Formation of Committees | 102 |
| Donaldson: Opposition Parties Under Soviet, Cuban Thumb (EXPRESS, 10, 12 Sep 85) | 103 |
| Claim Under Investigation, by Phoolo Danny | 103 |
| NAR Denial | 104 |
| Probe Finds No Progress on Airport HF Radio, Radar (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 12 Sep 85) | 105 |
| Briefs | |
| NAR Code-of-Conduct Team | 107 |
| Sugar Loss | 107 |
| New Bonn Envoy | 107 |
| Oil Find | 108 |
| Queen's Visit | 108 |
| Potential ISCOTT Partners | 108 |
| Loan for Electricity | 109 |
| New Ambassador to Venezuela | 109 |
| Marijuana, Arms Find | 109 |

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CHILE, MEXICO MAY NOT RENEW TRADE PACT

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Sep 85 p B-3

[Excerpt] Haroldo Venegas, director of bilateral economic relations for the Foreign Ministry, stated that due to the recent problems with Chilean exports on the Mexican market, the modifying protocol of the limited agreement signed by both countries might not be renewed. It expires in December.

He made this statement during the monthly coordination meeting on foreign trade. Representatives of public and private organizations involved in foreign trade participate in this meeting held at the Foreign Ministry.

Venegas explained that this situation is being studied with the Chilean-Mexican business committee. It can only be resolved favorably if there is a change in attitude in the Mexican Government.

Through the modifying protocol of the limited agreement, Mexico received customs exemptions for 812 products while Chile received them for 1,115 products.

Haroldo Venegas explained: "There has been gradual deterioration in bilateral trade between the two countries in recent months." He stated that while Chilean exports to Mexico decreased from \$68 million in 1980 to \$9 million in 1984, Chilean imports from Mexico fell from \$34 million in 1980 to \$22 million in 1984.

The official repeated: "If the conditions in the Mexican market do not change, the trade agreement between Chile and Mexico will not be renewed."

He also pointed out that of the \$68 million exported by Chile in 1980, \$29 million corresponded to shipments of negotiated products. Of the \$34 million imported by Chile from Mexico, \$19 million corresponded to negotiated products with customs exemptions.

The main Chilean exports to Mexico negotiated within ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] include fish meal, iodine, saltpeter, cellulose and paper for perforated labels.

The products our country imports from Mexico under similar conditions include cocoa butter, uncarded cotton, typewriters, books, lamp-black and unexposed sensitized film.

ARGENTINA

AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF ATTENDS JUNTA TRIAL

PY051147 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Oct (NA)--Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo today watched the first part of the summation before the federal court by defense lawyers for former Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Orlando Ramon Agosti, retired. Crespo was the first current military leader to attend the public trial of the former commanders in chief.

A source at the "Condor" Building [the Air Force headquarters] said Crespo went to federal courtroom "to express his solidarity with his prosecuted comrade." However, this report could neither be confirmed nor denied because Brigadier Crespo made no statements to journalists at the court building.

Notwithstanding, the Air Force source said that "Crespo attended the trial to show solidarity with his prosecuted comrade, whose guilt has not been proven, and to express--through his presence--his confidence in the court."

The source added that "the institution also wants to express concern over this trial and its eventual consequences."

The Air Force Chief of Staff, who wore a military uniform, made no statements either upon entering or leaving the courtroom, where he stayed from 1500 to 1530. He left the court building at the first recess.

CSO: 3348/27

ARGENTINA

ARMY OFFICERS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST

PY050131 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2003 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (TELAM)--A Communications deputy commander and a War College director, Escuela de Armas, posted to Campo de Mayo, have both been placed under house arrest, although for different reasons.

This report has been confirmed by sources close to the Army Chief of Staff, who stated that Communications Deputy Commander Col Francisco Javier de Guernica has been sentenced to 1-month because of statements he made during a meeting held at the Libertador Building [the Army's headquarters]. The meeting was held to explain the scope of a loan the government will grant to the active-duty cadres.

De Cuernica raised his voice while addressing the meeting, something which was considered to be a lack of discipline. Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu imposed a 30-day house arrest on De Guernica. During this time he is not to receive visitors.

De Cuernica, who served as a member of the joint chief of staff office during the first stage of the constitutional government under Lt Gen Julio Fernandez Torres, had been considered by the Communications Promotion Board as a candidate for the rank of brigadier general, something that will not take place now that he has been punished.

With regard to the other military officer, whose identity was not reported, the punishment was prompted by a minor infraction committed during an inspection visit conducted by military leaders to an army college located in Campo de Mayo.

CSO: 3348/27

ARGENTINA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE READ AT LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

PY040145 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1503 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (TELAM)--President Raul Alfonsin has stated that the marvels of this century are the accomplishments in the quest for freedom, as is the case of the condemnation of colonialism, an anachronistic situation which still hurts Spaniards and Argentines in Gibraltar and the Malvinas and must soon be resolved in a reasonable manner.

These remarks are contained in Alfonsin's message that Hugo Gobbi, Argentine ambassador to Spain, today read at the Liberal International Congress in Madrid which awarded the prize for freedom to the Argentine president.

Alfonsin's message states that those of us who are committed to politics know very well that the progress achieved in the quest for freedom is the most important accomplishment of this century because mankind has left behind slavery, made substantial headway toward sexual equality, banned old myths on racial differences and has condemned age-old colonialist practices.

Alfonsin goes on to say that the anachronistic situations that still hurt Spaniards and Argentines in Gibraltar and the Malvinas, must soon be resolved in a reasonable manner, a manner that we who are following the course of history, firmly and calmly expect to happen.

He adds: Our century has seen how chains that lasted thousands of years were broken at the expense of millions of human lives and hundreds of millions have learned to be permanently on guard to defend democracy.

He reaffirmed that none of the technical advances of the 20th century will be more important or lasting than the moral and political progress that civilization has achieved. The president stressed: I am hopeful that in the 21st century, which is about to begin, freedom will be the basis for interhuman relationships, so that its mere absence will mean shame, discrimination against and condemnation of those guilty of withholding it.

President Alfonsin states that the progress attained by freedom is by far more important than the technological progress which allows us to have an optimistic view of the future. He adds that the evil and terrifying aspects of certain scientific advances in the last few decades are part of the whirlwind

revolution that freedom has experienced, this technical and scientific progress must and should be encouraged without fearing its consequences as long as the moral, social and political progress maintains the thrust we have been witnessing and fueling these years.

The speech that Argentina's ambassador to Spain read at the Liberal International Congress in Madrid adds that the material progress of the world cannot be achieved at the expense of the less developed nations. Thus, we need urgent worldwide political reforms to make sure that the formula to achieve harmony is not reversed and turned against our nations.

Alfonsin explains that if material and technical progress does not benefit to a reasonable extent all mankind, the marvels of some will mean shame for others.

He goes on to say that the 21st century must be the century of justice as Hipolito Yrigoyen's solidaristic liberalism would have liked it to be and your liberalism advocates.

The Argentine president stressed that we can see the promising dawn of a new political structure, and recalled that Echeverra, Krause, Yrigoyen, Iglesias and Rosselli--whom he termed liberals--have shown us the course toward the final convergence of the liberal and socialist archetypes so that the 20th century, the century of freedom, will be followed by the 21st century, the century of justice.

I hope, the Argentine president says, that the fruitful toil of the thinkers and the everyday experience of political leaders will come up with the means to bring together certain trends that nowadays seem to be opposite although they may well be just different starting points toward a common destiny.

President Alfonsin thanked the Liberal International for the award granted to him by stating: I would like to thank you on behalf of the Argentine people, creators and leading actors in the quest launched more than 2 years ago to recover freedom once and for all, thus restoring the dignity of man.

We feel, he stressed, that this is an excellent occasion to reflect on freedom of thought as a method in government, on the attitudes and lessons of other men who have made this method their *raison d'etre*.

In the message read by Ambassador Gobbi, Alfonsin mentioned Karl Krause's liberal philosophy, and the influence which his thinking had on Spanish politics through other philosophers like Julian Sanz del Rio, Gumersindo Azcarate and Miguel de Unamuno.

Among other things Alfonsin indicated that we could say that the Argentine radicals are in the final analysis, old-time liberals and socialists. The practical harmony of these two principles has made our political approach positive and lasting.

CSO: 3348/26

ARGENTINA

VICE PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM SOUTH KOREA, U.S.

PY052159 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2045 GMT 4 Sep 85

[Text] Cordoba, 4 Sep (NA)--In remarks at the Pajas Blancas airport, where he returned unexpectedly from a tour to the United States and South Korea, Vice President Victor Martinez stated here today that "50 oil companies interested in learning the legal terms of the Argentine projects for investments in research and exploitation of natural gas and petroleum" had contacted him.

Martinez was to land at Ezeiza airport, but the plane that was carrying him went on to this capital because a heavy fog prevented his plane from landing in Buenos Aires.

The vice president waited at the local airport for the fog to lift, during which time he was interviewed by reporters. He then boarded the plane and returned to the federal capital, where he landed by mid-morning.

Questioned by reporters, Martinez stated that he held "very good contacts" both in South Korea and on the U.S. West Coast, where he spent a few days.

The vice president commented on Northrop, manufacturers of airplane fuselages, "whose directors have expressed interest in establishing some sort of additional agreement with Argentina for the construction of airplanes."

Martinez added that while in the United States he was contacted by representatives of some "50 oil companies interested in learning the legal terms of the Argentine projects for investments in research and exploitation of natural gas and petroleum."

He added that in South Korea there are shipbuilding and steel enterprises considering the "possibilities of locating in our country."

CSO: 3348/26

ARGENTINA

UBALDINI DENIES LABOR SETTING DEADLINES

PY262248 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Sep 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)--Labour leaders Saul Ubaldini and Lorenzo Miguel yesterday placed contrasting emphasis on just how far to go in pressing for wage hikes, economic recovery and collective bargaining contracts that include pay talks. Sixty-two Organizations chief Miguel yesterday said the political arm of the Peronist unions would propose the CGT call a new 24-hour general strike before the November 3 congressional elections.

Miguel, speaking at a ceremony in remembrance of CGT chief Jose Ignacio Rucci, who was gunned down 12 years ago, said workers who originally supported the government's economic reform plan "now see that it has become a blow to those who risk capital and the guy who does the manual labour."

But CGT secretary-general Ubaldini, who along with other CGT members is to meet with Labour Minister Hugo Barrioneuvo today at 5 pm, said labour would not place deadlines on the government. And Ubaldini flatly denied a news report that the CGT would give the government one week to meet its demands.

Meanwhile, a government source reported President Raul Alfonsin intends to invite labour back to the socioeconomic conference table. The CGT withdrew from the tripartite talks last month.

Ubaldini yesterday also lunched with Radical Party senators to discuss the collective contracts bill now in Congress. Senator Luis Brasesco afterwards said the government, with the consent of the CGT, is ready to consider certain steps to increase wages without "affecting the fight against inflation."

On the strike front, postal workers are expected to shortly adopt protest measures that could threaten the November 3 polls by disrupting mail. The workers oppose a bill by Radical senators to sell off part of the postal service (Encotel) to the private sector. The bill would allow municipalities and state companies to contract private firms for the delivery of tax bills.

And 30 drum-banging protesters in front of the Sheraton Hotel were arrested early yesterday morning for disturbing the peace. The protest was aimed at getting 10 men, one a union delegate, rehired by the hotel. The protesters charged the firings favoured unionists "put in power by the military regime."

Around 200 paper workers and printers protested in front of Government House yesterday, as a half-dozen others continued their hunger strike in Plaza de Mayo to demand financial help for the company. The blue-collar Railway Union (UF) said it would announce new strike action on Monday to demand better retirement benefits for the sector.

In a rare statement of support for union action in other countries, the CGT late Tuesday night expressed its "fraternal support and solidarity" with the Bolivian Workers' Confederation (COB), which launched an indefinite strike over 2 weeks ago. The CGT also demanded the immediate release of unionists being detained in Bolivia.

CSO: 3300/55

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

SOCIALIST PARTY LEAVES FREJULI--Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (NA)--The authentic Socialist Party [PSA] has announced its withdrawal from the Justicialist Liberation Front (FREJULI) to which, until recently, it belonged along with the official Peronist faction, the Integration and Development Movement (MID), and the Popular Leftist Front (FIP). The socialist argued that "we were unable to match our conception of a front with that held by the majority party." In a two-paragraph communique the Socialist Party President Victor Garcia Costa, announced the decision to "fully recover the capacity to decide" noting that the alliance was formed on the understanding "that the share of responsibility that the PSA had in fulfilling the program could not be in the hands of any party other than the PSA." Garcia Costa pointed out that this condition was not fulfilled, presumably at the time the list of candidates was drawn up, and he announced the PSA's withdrawal from the front. Garcia Costa noted that the "Socialist Party supported the program from the beginning." [Text] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1315 GMT 14 Sep 85]

PERONISTS POSTPONE PRIMARIES--(NA-DYN)--The Justicialist National Council and the 62 Organizations argued yesterday over three crucial issues still separating them on the Buenos Aires province political scene; early primaries, the makeup of the BA intervention board and the expulsions of Antonio Cafiero and Eduardo Duhalde. After all-night politicking last night, the Council agreed to postpone primaries until 6 April 1986 and reshuffle the intervention board, but looked like upholding the expulsions. The 62 forced the meeting by publicly opposing both the 13 October primaries called for by Iglesias (also provincial party chairman) and the expulsions of FREJUDEPA front-runners Antonio Cafiero and Eduardo Duhalde, both allied with the Christian Democrats against Iglesias. [Excerpts] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Oct 85 p 11]

MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTER--Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)--Metalworkers leader Lorenzo Miguel said tonight that the meeting he held with Labor Minister Hugo Barrionuevo "has not been positive" for the solution of problems affecting the workers from his union. Miguel explained that the talks with the government will continue, but that the Metalworkers Union [VOM] will implement its "plan of struggle" supporting the demands which have not been met, especially protesting the annulment of a resolution which in practice implies a reduction of most metalworkers' salaries. [Text] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2215 GMT 30 Sep 85]

UBALDINI PRAISES DEBT APPROACH--(NA-DYN)--CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini yesterday told the Radio Belgrano programme Manana, Tarde y Noche that the labour grouping opposed collective bargaining agreements which did not include wages but said the CGT was on speaking-terms with the government on the issue. He also said it was impossible to discuss the foreign debt since nobody knew what part was legal or illegal nor who was responsible for it. Nevertheless, Ubaldini hailed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's new approach to a political treatment of the debt. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 85 p 5]

ALFONSIN MEETS WITH BRIZOLA--Rio de Janeiro, 4 Oct (AFP)--Argentine President Raul Alfonsin tonight met with Rio de Janeiro governor Leonel Brizola, a social democratic leader, during a stopover made enroute to Madrid. The Argentine head of state, who is traveling on a regular Argentine Airline flight, held talks with Brizola and the Argentine ambassador to Brazil, Rafael Vazquez. Gilberto Veloso, the head of the department for the Americas of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, handed to the Argentine president a letter from his Brazilian counterpart, Jose Sarney. The airplane that is carrying the Argentine head of state to Madrid, where he will meet with King Juan Carlos and will receive two international awards, took off from Rio de Janeiro's international airport at 2030 (2330 GMT). [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0013 GMT 5 Oct 85]

ALFONSIN'S MESSAGE TO SARNEY--Argentine President Raul Alfonsin today sent a message to Brazilian President Jose Sarney as he made a stopover in Rio de Janeiro on his way back to Argentina from a trip to Spain. In his message, the Argentine president recalled the meeting the two presidents will hold in November, stressing that it will strengthen the ties of bilateral friendship even further. The Argentine president also noted President Sarney's position in favor of a solution to the problems that the Latin American nations are confronting. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Oct 85]

ALFONSIN ADVOCATES DIALOGUE--Buenos Aires, 4 Oct (TELAM)--President Raul Alfonsin said that his upcoming meeting with British Liberal Party leader David Steel in Europe is a positive development, adding: "I have always believed in dialogue." Alfonsin made these remarks at the end of the ceremony at Government House during which he transferred power to Vice President Victor Martinez, before departing for Spain. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1834 GMT 4 Oct 85]

FLOUR EXPORTED TO ANGOLA--The export of 32,000 tons of flour to the Republic of Angola commenced last week. The operation is a joint effort of the "Federacion Argentina de la Industria Molinera" and 40 local flour millers. The wheat is being supplied by the Argentine Grain Board. Federacion spokesmen said the local market absorbs 3.7 million tons of wheat per year, but the industry is in a position to process 5.5 million tons of wheat during the same period. This deal of 32,000 tons is the first main export effort by the government and the milling industry. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Jul 85 p 5 PY]

RETIRE GENERAL FREED--Rawson, (NA)--The Federal Appeals Court of Comodoro Rivadiva ordered the release of retired General Osvaldo Rene Azpitarte on Saturday. He was imprisoned in the Almirante Zar Naval Airforce Base 5 days ago on a decision handed down by Rawson Federal Judge Adolfo Beltran Mulhall. Mulhall had found the ex-officer "presumably guilty" of the death of Radical deputy Mario Amaya during the previous military regime. Araya was kidnapped with then Chubut senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen on 17 August 1976. They were first held at Almirante Zar Naval Airforce Base before being transferred to Bahia Blanca where they were held and tortured at La Escuelita illegal detention center. They were then moved to Viedma and handed over to the police who put them under 5th Army Corps jurisdiction. The Army moved them to Rawson prison where Amaya finally died. Azpitarte was commander of the 5th Army Corps at the time. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Oct 85 p 5]

CSO: 3348/27

CHILE

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS 1.7 PERCENT GROWTH IN FIRST HALF OF 1985

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 7 Sep 85 p 8

[Text] The PGB [Gross Geographic Product] increased 1.7 percent in the first half of this year compared to the same period in 1984. Central Bank provided this information, specifying that--according to preliminary figures--there was an increase of 3.4 percent in the first quarter of the year and a drop of 0.1 percent in the second quarter compared to the same periods last year.

Central Bank stated: "The fact that the highest PGB recorded since 1981 came in the second half of last year significantly influences these comparisons." It added that if changes in the PGB are calculated based on the immediately preceding quarters, the rates of growth are 1.4 percent and 2.5 percent for the first and second quarters, respectively.

The report indicated that these preliminary figures show that economic activity has maintained moderate growth throughout the year. Although it is less than in the first half of 1984, it is positive with respect to the recessive trends observed in the second half of 1984.

Central Bank reported that the largest growth in the period came in agriculture, 7.1 percent, and construction, 11 percent. Agriculture demonstrated a noticeable ability to react to the stimuli of exports and the replacement of imports based on the currency exchange policy and sectorial policies.

The construction sector has been helped by increased public investment since the end of 1983, repairs of installations affected by the earthquake on 3 March 1985 and the gradual reduction of real interest rates for long-term credits.

Mining

The production sectors that grew the least were mining, down 3.3 percent, and industry, down 1.5 percent.

Some technical production problems in large copper mining had a major impact but they have already been resolved. The manufacturing industry has faced lower foreign and domestic demand and stockpiling. Prices have had to be re-adjusted because of devaluations of the peso and unrealized inflationary expectations.

The service sector has shown a downward trend due to lower imports.

Central Bank estimated that agriculture will moderate its growth rate for the rest of 1985 due to seasonal factors while mining and industry will improve. Construction should maintain its growth of the first half of the year. Therefore, the increase in the PGB in 1985 would be about 2 percent.

That rate is lower than originally projected but is quite satisfactory considering the unexpected drop in trade terms.

The study maintained: "The macroeconomic program being applied proposed--and is achieving--a positive growth rate in economic activity despite adverse foreign conditions." It stated that forcing a more accelerated revitalization without a favorable change in those conditions would be very inappropriate and would require the corresponding adjustments sooner or later.

Inflation

As was foreseen, there were inflationary pressures during the first 6 months of the year because of the devaluation of the peso and the increase in customs in September 1984.

Central Bank indicated: "That situation is inevitable after the sharp currency exchange adjustment. It is a transitory situation since, in fact, inflation decreased significantly in the months of July and August. Therefore, it is assumed that the annual rate will be around 25 percent as initially projected."

Balance of Payments

The balance of payments program for 1985 is based on a significant effort toward exports and replacement of imports. This should be translated into a substantial increase in the trade surplus. In the first 6 months, there was strong growth in the physical volume of the main exports other than copper--an average of 8.4 percent. This is expected to continue during the rest of the year.

As to imports, they were adjusted as planned which should also continue for the entire year.

Central Bank also maintained: "The sharp and unexpected drop in the prices of exports--4 percent for copper and 15 percent for other main exports--will make it impossible to achieve the trade surplus initially projected. Our latest projection indicates that the trade surplus will reach \$740 million in 1985, 2.5 times more than last year."

Finally, the report maintained that the lower foreign currency revenue from exports is fully compensated for by the decrease in international interest rates, the improvement observed in the balance of nonfinancial services and more commercial credits and other private capital than expected. Therefore, the annual goal of equilibrium in the balance of payments is still feasible.

7717

CSO: 3348/062

CHILE

NATIONAL COAL ENTERPRISE PLANS 3-YEAR INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Sep 85 Supplement p 1

[Text] ENACAR S.A. [National Coal Enterprise] (a branch of CORFO [Production Development Corporation]) celebrates its 133rd anniversary today, 9 September. This anniversary coincides with a sustained growth stage and the start-up of projects that will guarantee a good supply to its current customers and new ones.

ENACAR S.A. directly works the Lota, Colico Sur, Trongol Norte and Lebu mines and works the Schwager mine through a branch, Cia. Carbonifera Schwager Ltda.

These mining centers produce approximately 1 million tons of coal per year. This will increase dramatically in the coming years after the completion of these projects.

ENACAR S.A. and its Schwager branch now constitute the most important source of employment in the coal zone. They directly employ 8,492 workers, 6,362 at ENACAR S.A. and 2,130 at Schwager. It should be pointed out that the production expansion plans include a gradual increase in personnel. They should employ a total of 9,840 workers by 1990.

Apart from the direct sources of employment mentioned above, ENACAR S.A. authorizes leases of its coal claims. This means a work force of 4,400 workers who have the alternative of selling their production to the enterprise which keeps a purchasing office in the area.

The above means that if the future market conditions meet expectations, coal mining in Region VIII will continue to be a very stable source of employment.

The financial situation of the enterprise has improved compared to past years although the expected positive results have not yet been reached. The great progress achieved in decreasing operational losses, however, is very significant. These losses reached 2,041,000,000 pesos in 1976 and only 136 million pesos in 1984 (in currency of December 1984).

This positive trend has continued so far in 1985 which means a situation of equilibrium can be expected in the overall results of the period.

The estimates of the future coal market in the country made by ENACAR S.A. and the National Energy Commission both indicate a great increase in demand in the coming years. This has already started. These estimates indicate that coal consumption will double in the next 5 years, reaching 3 million tons per year. This will increase to 3.5 million tons by 1995.

With these expectations, ENACAR S.A. is carrying out projects that will permit it to meet this growing market under better competitive conditions.

The main investment projects which total 3,443,000,000 pesos in the 3-year period 1985-1987 will increase production and improve the efficiency of its mines with appreciable cost reductions. At the same time, the exploitable reserves of Lota mine will increase 40 percent.

ENACAR S.A. Investments - 1985-1987
(In millions of pesos of 31 December 1984)

| <u>Project</u> | <u>1985</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1987</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Increase in productivity, Lota mine | 642.6 | 1,971.0 | 211.0 |
| 2. New structure, Lebu mine | 164.7 | 148.7 | 8.2 |
| 3. Improvement of infrastructure, Colico and Trongol mines | 4.5 | 156.3 | 136.1 |
| Total | 811.8 | 2,276.0 | 355.3 |

The Lota mine expansion project consists basically in increasing the levels of production and yield by introducing new technologies in the production process. This includes the necessary equipment for mechanized exploitation of Layer 3 and the integral improvement of all the support systems of the mine like underground traffic, the electrical network, ventilation, etc.

In this way, Lota mine will increase its production from 500,000 tons per year to 720,000 tons per year beginning in 1988.

The new structure project for Lebu mine means the mechanization and modernization of operational conditions of the mine. This will permit a gradual increase from a production level of about 75,000 tons per year to about 210,000 tons per year from 1992 on.

At the Colico and Trongol mines, the investments will lead to a general improvement of the exploitation and support systems underground and above ground. Production should increase from 150,000 tons per year to about 240,000 tons per year from 1991 on.

Since the Cia. Carbonifera Schwager Ltda. plans to reach a production level of 400,000 tons per year beginning in 1988, ENACAR S.A. and Schwager together can supply 1.6 million tons of coal to the national market per year in the medium term, guaranteeing their permanence as labor centers and production centers and their economic stability.

Housing Plan

In order to help improve conditions and the housing situation of its workers, ENACAR S.A. has begun a special plan to sell many of its houses. Workers, former workers and their heirs are eligible for this special plan.

The housing is sold at a good price for the workers with periods of payment ranging from 5 to 20 years. By 31 August 1985, 260 sales had already been finalized.

In another program, the enterprise actively supports its workers and former workers in forming open cooperatives whose objective is the construction of new housing. It provides technical, legal and administrative support, sells land to the members of the cooperatives at a low cost and acts as intermediary in loans to the workers so that they have the savings needed to qualify for the Housing Subsidy. In 1984, 245 houses were completed in Lota and Coronel. It is expected that 645 more will be completed in 1985 through this cooperative system.

Replacement of Oil with Coal

Due to the high cost of oil on the international market and future price expectations, national industry could save several million dollars a year by intensifying the replacement of oil with coal. The country would also save foreign currency since much of the oil currently consumed comes from abroad.

According to recent studies, it is possible to replace most of the oil consumption. This would have obvious economic and social benefits.

An enterprise that replaces oil with coal cuts its fuel expenditures in half, recovering its investment in a very short period of time.

When deciding on the changeover, the most important factor to consider is, without question, the great difference in price in favor of coal compared to liquid fuels--based on an equal amount of energy delivered to the storage site of the customer.

Due to the comparative advantages of coal, ENACAR S.A. and its affiliate, Cia. Carbonifera Schwager Ltda., remain in constant contact with enterprises where fuel is a significant cost component in order to advise them in preliminary replacement studies and give recommendations on the type of coal to use and prices. As a result of this action, there are more and more changeovers, always with very satisfactory results.

7717

CSO: 3348/062

CHILE

AD SCORES HARASSMENT OF STUDENT, UNION LEADERS

PY031515 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Oct 85

[Text] [Monitored in progress]...[The Democratic Alliance, AD, has issued a statement on the results of the demonstrations held] on 4 September by several sectors of the population and accused the regime of harassing representatives of the students and the workers as well as the people at large. In addition, the statement reasserts the AD's decision to champion the Chilean people's right to hold peaceful demonstrations.

The statement declares that the peaceful demonstration held on 4 September was legitimate and just. It denounces that Chilean laws are the result of a single person's will over the past 12 years. The internal state security law has been amended in an attempt to prevent the people from holding demonstrations and protesting. This is a juridical monstrosity, the statement says, placing the courts in a difficult position and under unacceptable pressure.

All the indictees have clean hands, the AD statement insists, adding that there is no crime in seeking a return to normalcy.

AD Secretary General Claudio (Uepe) has insisted that the people responsible for the crimes are the ones who must be punished.

[Begin (Uepe) recording] It is not and it cannot be a crime to seek through peaceful means the restoration of normalcy in the universities, in the blue-collar and white-collar working sectors, in the neighborhoods, and in other fields of national endeavor. It is not and cannot be a crime to mobilize in pursuit of democracy in the country.

In turn, it is a crime--and the people responsible should be prosecuted--to attack people's lives and property. The government, instead of concentrating its efforts on finding the people responsible for the crimes that are known to the public, is using all its might against the well-known representatives of the Chilean people's organizations.

The AD again expresses its resolute and full solidarity with the jailed leaders and reasserts its decision to champion the rights the Chilean people have to

hold peaceful demonstrations, to protest using legitimate means, and to defend their historical rights. [end recording]

Nothing and no one will be able to halt the advance of a people who want peace, justice, and liberty, the AD statement concludes.

CSO: 3348/21

CHILE

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO HOLD DEMONSTRATION 9 OCT

PY090224 Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 9 Oct 85

[Text] Santiago, 8 Oct (AFP)--Political sources reported today in Santiago that students at major Chilean universities plan to paralyze university activities on Wednesday in a new opposition offensive that will conclude on 15 October with a national day of solidarity.

The students clashed here today with police, as did students in neighboring Valparaiso. At least 10 students were detained during the incidents, when the students demanded the resignation of Education Minister Sergio Gaete and an end to the 12-year-old military intervention of the universities.

According to the Confederation of Chilean Students (CONFECH), the University of Chile, the Catholic University, the University of Santiago and other student organizations will participate in the stoppage.

The 15 October day of solidarity has been called for by the member-parties of the Democratic Alliance and by the member-unions of the National Workers Command in order to demand the release of union leader Rodolfo Seguel and other leaders who have been jailed for nearly 2 weeks. They are accused of promoting subversion against General Augusto Pinochet's government.

The leaders of the student federations were also detained but were released on 4 October, when the government withdrew its charges against them as student agitation was escalating.

The Democratic Alliance has invited all Chileans to demonstrate their support for the jailed leaders on the day of solidarity according to a communique released by the coalition, which groups rightists, liberals, republicans, Christian Democrats, radicals, Social Democrats, and a socialist faction.

The Alliance has stated that in addition to the release of the union leaders, it is also demanding that the courts clear up the murders that occurred on 4 and 5 September, when 10 people were shot dead during the recent day of protest, organized by the National Workers Command.

The opposition group also stated that on 15 October, there will be a mass visit to the leaders and that as of 1400 [1700 GMT], every Chilean must return home as a demonstration of solidarity.

CSO: 3348/21

CHILE

BRIEFS

POLICE CAPTURE 4 COMMUNISTS--The civil police have captured a dangerous gang of four criminals belonging to the proscribed Communist Party and seven other common criminals. This group has conducted many violent actions, in one of which a Carabineros officer was seriously wounded. The civil police robbery brigade conducted the investigations which led to the capturing of the criminals. The leader of the gang is 33 year-old Sergio Estrada Alvarez, nicknamed El Chico and alias Marco Antonio. He was an active member of the illegal Communist Party Youth. He planned the robberies with the aid of three other communists: (Flavio) Leonidas Biagini Alvarado, 28; Luis Mario Munoz Molinas, 26; and Patriocio Enrique Figueroa Galvez, 28. Each of these criminals had a specific task, like getting firearms, acquiring safe deposit boxes, following people, or getting cars for their missions. This group started to operate last year, committing many crimes, like robbing gasoline stations, shoe stores, clothing factories, meat-packing plants, supermarkets, private homes, and taxi drivers. [Excerpts] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Oct 85]

MINISTER ATTENDS COSTA RICA MEETING--Labor and Social Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata traveled to San Jose de Costa Rica last night to participate in the eighth meeting of American labor ministers organized by the OAS. Different aspects of labor will be discussed during the meeting in which 16 Latin American labor ministers will participate. Marquez de la Plata will brief his counterparts about Chilean labor improvements. [Text] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Oct 85]

SKELETON FOUND IN CARABINEROS POST--Santiago, 6 Oct (EFE)--The Curico branch of the Chilean Human Rights Commission today reported that human bones have been found by construction workers inside a Carabineros post. According to a report released in Curico, 250 km south of Santiago, the bones have been found in the Tutuque post. However, the judge hearing the case has not been able to verify them because they had been taken away on the orders of a judge advocate. The report states that the skeleton was found buried about 50 to 60 cm under the ground. According to regional authorities, the skeleton has been sent to the Santiago Forensics Institute for analysis. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1547 GMT 6 Oct 85]

NEW TRUCK OWNERS LEADER--Julio Lagos was elected president of the truck owners confederation in the union election on Saturday. He replaces Adolfo Guinteros. [Excerpts] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Oct 85 FY]

SWISS AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet on 17 September received the credentials of the new Swiss ambassador to Chile, Sven Meili. The ceremony was held in the O'Higgins hall at La Moneda Palace. [Excerpts] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Sep 85 p C3 PY]

CANADIAN AMBASSADOR APPROVED--The Chilean Government has approved the appointment of Michel de Goumois as Canadian ambassador to Chile. De Goumois replaces Clayton Bullis. [Excerpts] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Sep 85 p 5 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON--The Lebanese Government has accepted Florencio Zambrano as the new Chilean ambassador to Lebanon. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Oct 85 PY]

PUERTO MONTT MAYOR--Puerto Montt (by Alejandro Gutierrez Barria)--Federico Oelckers Sepulveda has been installed as the new mayor of Puerto Montt. Oelckers Sepulveda is replacing Jorge Brahm Yuraseck. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Sep 85 p C4 PY]

NEW RADIO IN TEMUCO--Temuco (by Reinaldo Neira)--The first evangelical radio station in Chile, which will be transmitting with 1,000 watts power, will be opened in Temuco on 23 September. The radio's name is Esperanza FM. The radio is owned by the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church [Iglesia Alianza Cristiana y Misionera]. The radio's director is Rodolfo Campos Porflitt. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Sep 85 p C9 PY]

POLICE OFFICIAL APPOINTED--The new deputy director for operations of the Investigative Police, Carlos Meyers Busquets, was installed yesterday in his new post during a private ceremony. He replaces Prefect Inspector Julio Rada Jimenez, who died of cancer on 23 August. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Aug 85 p C 6 PY]

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL APPOINTED--Yosuke Kuramochi Obrequé has been appointed the new rector of the regional branch of the Catholic University [UC] in Temuco. He replaces Jose Sanchez Garcia, who left to obtain a master degree in Spain. The students were upset because Kuramochi was appointed and not elected by the university teachers. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 22 Aug 85 p 14 PY]

VALPARAISO UC RECTOR APPOINTED--Professor Juan Enrique Froemel Andrade was installed yesterday as the new rector of the Valparaiso Catholic University [UCV], replacing Raul Bertelsen. The installation ceremony was chaired by the head of the UC, Monsignor Francisco de Borja Valenzuela, and the ceremony was opened by the UCV General Secretary Felix Garcia, while hundreds of students near the chapel chanted slogans against the system of appointed rectors and demanded the restitution of banished or suspended teachers and students. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 27 Aug 85 p 10 A PY]

FISHING INDUSTRY GROWING--Professor Patricio Arana, from the Maritime Sciences School of the Valparaiso Catholic University, who presided over the sixth Chilean Congress of Fishing, which took place on 28, 29 and 30 August in Vina de Mar, has reported that Chile produced 4.67 million tons of marine products in 1984, generating \$441 million in fishing exports. He explained that the fishing industry is growing because "many small seafood exporting industries have been created lately and because Chilean fishing technology is improving." [Excerpts] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Aug 85 p C 1 PY]

MILITARY SHIP LAUNCHED--The Chilean Navy today added to its fleet a vessel built in its own shipyard. The 1,400-ton vessel, the "Chacabuco," is the third vessel in a series made with technology purchased in France. Like the two first vessels, the "Chacabuco" is designed to transport and disembark an infantry company equipped for combat, including armored cars. The Chacabuco was launched in the shipyard of the Talcahuano Navy Base, on the southern coast of Chile. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2246 GMT 16 Sep 85 PY]

STUDENTS STAGE VIGIL--Approximately 500 university students this morning ended a vigil they had started last night by forming a human ring around the main building of the Catholic University in Santiago. The vigil was called by the acting executive board of the Federation of Catholic University Students [FEUC] and by the Association of Professors. The vigil was designed to express solidarity with and to request the release of the FEUC Executive Board members, who are being held in the Santiago jail. Nearly 2,000 people, students and professors included, attended the vigil. Acting FEUC President Alex Figueiroa described the vigil as a complete success. At the end of the vigil, the students vacated the main building of the Catholic University and formed a wide human ring around it as many Carabinero members looked on and as a water cannon was positioned nearby. The vigil was peaceful, and no detentions or incidents were reported. [Excerpts] [Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Oct 85]

GOLD PLAN CREATES JOBS--Temuco--The Gold Plan that the government is promoting throughout Chile means more than 12,000 jobs, 522 kilos of gold that should increase to 1,000 and approximately \$700,000 in foreign currency for the country. This was announced yesterday by the executive vice president of ENAMI [National Mining Enterprise], Maj Gen Rigoberto Rubio Ramirez. He came to Temuco with a group of experts to learn about activities in Region IX. The top official of ENAMI referred to the technical assistance that the enterprise will provide to small and medium mines with the objective of developing the mining regions. It especially focuses on development and technical support to improve their productivity. He also confirmed that people between 18 and 65 years of age who are fit to work in these activities can be hired as washers. It is necessary to register for this at the offices located in the regional intendances. The group continued to Carahue and will then visit other communities in Region IX where gold mines are located. [Excerpts] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 4 Sep 85 p 9] 7717

ARMY, NAVY PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED--The president of the republic, Capt Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, closed the meeting of the Selective Board for Army Senior Officers and Chiefs yesterday. The meeting was held with the top commanders of that branch of National Defense in the offices of the Army War Academy. At that time, Lt Gen Julio Canessa Roberts was confirmed as assistant commander in chief of the Army. The following officers were proposed for promotion to the rank of brigadier general: Luis Serre Ochsenius, Patricio Martinez Moena, Francisco Ramirez Migliassi, Hernan Chacon Soto, Luis Henriquez Rifo, Rodrigo Sanchez Casillas and Renato Fuenzalida Maechel. The promotions will take effect once the training process is over and the president issues the command. The Selective Board will meet again in October and the 1986 lists of retirements, promotions and assignments ordered by the military hierarchy will be announced. The Navy Council closed its meeting in Valparaiso presided over by the commander in chief of the Navy, Adm Jose Toribio Merino Castro. Its objective was to analyze the new assignments of the top Navy officers and the Navy personnel who will go into retirement. The main assignments were as follows: Vice Adm Hernan Rivera Calderon remains commander in chief of the First Naval Zone; Vice Adm Sergio Sanchez Luna, commander in chief of the Fleet, will become the general director of services of the Navy; Rear Adm John Howard Balaesque, general director of services of the Navy, will become commander in chief of the Fleet; and Vice Adm Ramon Undurraga Carvajal remains general director of personnel of the Navy. The following rear admirals will go into retirement: Ernesto Huber von Appen, general director of the Maritime Territory; Mario Ibarra Valenzuela, Navy comptroller; Enrique Malfanti Perez, director of naval engineering; and Luis Lara Marshall, director of ASMAR [Naval Docks and Yards]. [Text] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 31 Aug 85 p 5] 7717

CSO: 3348/062

22 October 1985

COLOMBIA

BISHOPS WARN AGAINST SUBVERSIVE PLAN

PA040415 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Sep 85 p 1-a, 1-d

[Excerpt] The bishops of Colombia have reported that there is an international plan, "shrewdly and carefully prepared" to make Colombia a Marxist country. They also expressed with grief the persistent serious problems and a depressing moral deterioration.

The bishops attributed this deterioration to several causes, in addition to the infiltration of non-Catholic ideology even in the church, they mentioned the progressive deterioration of the political parties, moral corruption at all levels, the structure of the economy based almost exclusively on capitalism and the violation of the most basic human rights.

In an extensive document, issued during the Episcopal Conference Special Assembly, the bishops mentioned the efforts to restore peace in the country and they asked that the guerrillas not be allowed to participate in the elections while still bearing arms. They also said that the dialogue has not always been successful. They added that "any peace process delayed indefinitely and without any positive results, will create uncertainty and confusion and will discourage those who are indeed seeking a brotherly coexistence and will benefit those who in the shadows are united in their subversive activities."

"Unfortunately," the bishops say in their document, "there are good reasons to be afraid, based on active propaganda, that the subversive goal is to seize power, and that the reforms it proposes in its plans, are just a front in order to reach its objectives."

Once more the bishops strongly disapproved of all forms of violence and indicated that subversion, terrorism, extortion, homicide, speculation, smuggling, drug trafficking, and the flight of capital are unacceptable.

Regarding the flight of capital, the church said that it is necessary for the country to engage in a big campaign for social justice, giving priority consideration to the poor and those that need more help.

"The people must give serious thought to the danger if those who are committing those crimes should seize the country, if we do not do something about it," the bishops said.

The document signed by the highest members of the Colombian Catholic Church, calls on all national sectors; it urges the government to keep struggling for social justice and concord and the congressmen and politicians to pass new and needed bills; those in charge of justice to be impartial and firm; and those who have economic power not to amass wealth and have luxuries when there are so many who need so much.

The bishops also urged the military forces to defend the legitimate institutes and the guerrillas to give up the wrong path of violence and armed struggle.

CSO: 3348/23

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES--Bogota--Colombian President Belisario Betancur has announced a prudent and staggered drop in the country's bank interest rates. The president said that soon the government will create conditions so that the bank's goal may be implemented in a relatively short term. President Betancur added that interest rates cannot be the result of a simple administrative act, but rather, they are the result of a total economic policy, which considers the banking system, monetary flow, budgetary balance, and the performance of the capital markets. He noted that his administration realizes that excessive financial costs are seriously affecting business profits, cutting back investments, and warping financial structures. [Text] [Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 2 Oct 85]

CSO: 3348/23

MEXICO

SOURCES OF OPPOSITION STRENGTH IN CHIHUAHUA IDENTIFIED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Aug 85

[Seven-part article by EXCELSIOR correspondents Salvador Martinez and Aurelio Ramos M.]

[14 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 21-A]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 13 Aug--Inoperative traditional mechanisms of worker, popular and peasant farmer influence; a weak state government that has provided no direction; an acute and intensifying economic crisis, and the lack of government credibility have turned this state into a hotbed of PAN [National Action Party] support, as the party prepares to win its first governorship next year with the backing of the clergy and business.

The National Action Party, which controls seven mayor's offices (in towns that account for 70 percent of the state's total population), four local deputy seats and, in effect, four federal deputy seats that the Electoral College is about to sanction, is determined to make the Chihuahua election a turning point in the country's political history and show that PRI "can be beaten."

Meanwhile, the Institutional Revolutionary Party is heading towards disaster, amid internal strife, the divisive influence of economic and political power groups, and the exhaustion of its social control structures such as labor federations like the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants] and CRT [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers], peasant farmer groups such as the CNC [National Peasant Confederation] and CCI [Independent Peasants Central Organization], and groups of settlers, professionals, small merchants and other grassroots associations affiliated with the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations].

An assessment of the political situation by representatives of all segments of society (academics, business and political leaders, priests) shows a negative bottom line for the system, whose demise began here in 1983 when not just PAN but also the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] and the PST [Socialist Workers Party] each won a mayoralty election at PRI's expense.

Hector Chavez Barron, a political science researcher and professor at the Chihuahua branch of the Tecnologico de Monterrey, has asserted that what is happening here is the result of this state's higher level of modernization in comparison to central and southern Mexico, the high level of schooling and the great annoyance that excessive Federal Government centralization causes among production sectors.

He noted that Chihuahua is 7th among the states in furnishing tax revenues to the Federal Government but only 17th in receiving benefits. In other words, the give-and-take is not equitable. Technically, this is called federalism, but socially it is called independence, which is conducive to political activism.

Compounding this, Chavez Barron added, is a practice that has become a PRI hallmark in the state. The most popular candidates never reach high-level political positions because instructions are received from Mexico City as to who will fill posts. "And the result of this erosion has been that PRI currently lacks natural candidates, and certain intermediate levels are practically vacant."

He even mentioned that some groups and individuals whose interests used to be openly or tacitly with the system are now "starting to get inadequate responses" to their demands. "The generals remain loyal, but the colonels are not completely loyal," he said alluding to the existence of political traitors inside PRI.

Generals and Colonels

Chavez Barron mentioned a possible solution for PRI, however. "It should move towards internal democratization, with more input from the Left, the CTM and the bureaucracy. The party has to change, concurrent with government decentralization."

Otherwise, "prominent PRI members could be just one step away from publicly repudiating their party and renouncing their membership." Repression is another approach, he continued, but this would lead "more quickly to widespread violence that would offend the entire northern part of the country," in the wake of recent events in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Sonora and Nuevo Leon.

After its defeats in the mayoralty elections in Chihuahua, Ciudad Juarez, Parral, Delicias, Camargo, Meoqui and Casas Grandes at the hands of PAN, and in Cuauhtemoc, Ignacio Zaragoza and Villa Coronado at the hands of the PST, PSUM and PPS, PRI conducted an inquiry aimed at preventing history from repeating itself in the voting for federal deputies.

In its analysis the party acknowledged that the political Right had grown stronger, identifying it as the ideology that seeks to maintain privileges for the country's dominant groups. It concluded, however, that "it was not the people who strengthened the Right; it was publicity and the campaign of systematic rumors about and attacks on the government and PRI from the highest echelons of business organizations."

The party indicated that the campaign of attacks was waged by the mainstays of the rightwing opposition, who took advantage of the economic crisis that was at its worst at the time of the 1983 election. The rumors spread all over the business world, spilling over into social groups that had no reason to stand, much less anything to gain, alongside the well-to-do Mexican and foreign managerial class that controls the wealth in this country.

This analysis was conducted by the party's Center for Political, Economic and Social Studies (CEPES). It also predicted that "they will endeavor to repeat or, no doubt, surpass these triumphs by employing the same tactic: attacks on the government, on the system, on PRI, emphasizing the crisis, inflation, the foreign debt and corruption but not their own responsibility for worsening conditions nor what the government is doing to combat the crisis, nor the major accomplishments in economic recovery."

The PRI analysts pinned their hopes for a political comeback merely on the assumption that the people "will surely be able to recognize their true oppressors, those who make off with their income, steal their wages and raise the prices of their food and housing. And they will not give them power so that they can become slave drivers with impunity."

Another Setback for PRI

PAN demonstrated at the 7 July elections that it was consolidating its gains, mainly in urban areas, where it won the three major deputy seats in Ciudad Juarez and another in the state capital. PRI has not yet ascertained the reasons for its fresh setback and is reluctant to admit its defeat.

"PAN has made no real gains; it's just snobism and salesmanship. PRI is still the majority party. We don't feel that we've hit the deck or are lost; our party is still strong," said Mario Almeida, the PRI head man in Ciudad Juarez. "There is nothing wrong in the party; the opposition has just seized on external factors, such as the crisis," Alfredo Rohana, the secretary general of the PRI State Steering Committee, stated.

These views unfortunately clash with actual ballot box returns; PRI has lost even at polling places set up in INFONAVIT [Institute of the National Fund for Workers Housing] housing developments, in military residential areas and in FOVISSSTE [Housing Fund of the Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] housing developments.

Anti-PRI feelings rather than pro-PAN sentiments are noticeable along the streets of Chihuahua's main cities. Taxicab drivers, shoe shine men, blue-collar workers, secretaries, professionals and even civil servants express their PAN sympathies, restrained only by fear of reprisals from the system. At the ballot boxes, however, the voice of the people was heard so loudly that CTM state leader Doroteo Zapata and a popular TV commentator, Armando Cabada, went down to defeat against their unpopular opponents.

Guillermo Prieto, the PAN state leader, is reluctant to admit that his party does not have a broad constituency that is really familiar with and staunchly backs PAN's ideas and principles. He did indicate, however: "I will not deny

that many people cast protest votes. This doesn't frighten me, though, because it happens everywhere that a government no longer satisfies its citizens. Party support is not permanent in any country."

And with the Electoral College about to look into the results of the latest elections in districts in which PAN was the virtual winner (district one in Chihuahua and districts three, four and eight in Ciudad Juarez), the PAN leader warned of the danger of not recognizing these victories: "The government must realize that the political cost of annulling the elections would be very high."

A Sure Victory for PAN in 1986

The Chihuahua PAN is already cockily celebrating its triumphs next year, when the governor, 14 local deputies and 67 mayors will be elected. "If things go more or less well, or not even that well, we are sure winners," opined Guillermo Prieto.

He denied that PAN receives support from the clergy, but he did admit that some businessmen make contributions to the party, like any other citizens. He clarified, though, that the party's finances are not based on them. He then went on to say: "In my 5 years as chairman of the regional committee I have not felt that business has called or has tried to call the shots. In fact, for a long time now economic and political power has teamed up in Mexico within the system."

As far as Deputy Prieto is concerned, "the only way that the system can survive is by becoming more democratic. Its defeat is assured as long as it behaves as it has so far, with slogans such as 'no more room,' 'every last one' and others."

The Church has played a major role in Chihuahua politics, even though the archbishop of Chihuahua, Adalberto Almeida Merino, and the bishop of Ciudad Juarez, Manuel Talamas Camandari, deny that they are helping any political party with their religious messages.

"We have merely urged the people to vote. We have not engaged in partisan propaganda. We have merely taken the responsible civic action of furnishing some guidelines on how to vote, because casting a ballot is not enough. The goals must be freedom, justice, democracy, truth and respect for life," said Almeida Merino.

He also voiced his view on the political situation in the state. "The people are now quite well informed and aware of the multi-million peso frauds that have gone on all over the nation, and although this is not the only cause of the crisis, the people also mistrust and, to a striking degree, reject the system. This has been a major factor in the opposition vote."

PAN's gains and PRI's eroding support, heightened during the term of present Governor Oscar Ornelas, have also prompted reactions from the various political groups operating in the state, calling to mind past administrations

such as those of Teofilo Borunda, Manuel Bernardo Aguirre and Oscar Flores Sanchez.

The assessments match: "Politics has been handled inefficiently; there is a lack of leadership; and PAN quickly fills the vacuums that are created. Governor Ornelas lacks sensitivity and experience and fails to control groups and sectors, and he is strikingly complaisant about and tolerant of PAN activism."

[15 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 23-A, 30-A]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 14 Aug--A haven for the republic during the era of Juarez and the birthplace of the revolution, Chihuahua has seen its history betrayed as former PRI governors, officials and lawmakers have made fortunes, the state's main production activities have been monopolized and glaring social inequalities persist, while the administration of Governor Oscar Ornelas has proven incapable of tackling the state's problems.

With a surface area of 24.7 million hectares, Chihuahua is the biggest state in Mexico and is still home to large estates owned in some cases by the same families as during the reign of Porfirio Diaz, plus others established under the protection of revolutionary principles. To most of Chihuahua's 2.5 million residents, this is just one example of the inconsistency between what the ruling party says and does.

In the labor movement, rigid control long postponed elementary wage, fringe benefit and working condition demands for the sake of an industrial boom. The economic crisis, however, demonstrated its inefficiency and pointed up the lack of real representation of labor leaders, who have now gone down to defeat at the polls.

The shift in allegiance also took place among the middle class, the bureaucracy, settler organizations, office and shop workers and other social groups, who saw their hopes of getting ahead thwarted by the 1982 crisis and became fertile soil for PAN's roots.

Francisco Rodriguez Perez, the PRI state leader, has analyzed political developments in the state and attributed the PAN rise "to manipulation of the crisis by the National Action Party" and to the help of the Church. He added, however: "We have the men to get ourselves out of this minor problem. The ideology of the Mexican Revolution will win out."

In his opinion PRI actually made gains in the federal elections on 7 July, compared to the 1983 vote, because whereas that year PAN won by a three to one margin, this time its victory was narrower in the areas that the rightwing opposition dominates.

As far as support from the clergy is concerned, he remarked that "unfortunately for them" many priests are deeply involved in politics and openly support PAN, which "their parishioners look very poorly on." Regarding the government's stand towards the Church, Rodriguez Perez declined to indicate whether politically involved clergymen are tolerated: "The people in

charge of safeguarding the country's interests in this field should give the answer."

The traditional pattern of state political control, based on the governor as both head of the Executive Branch and "the state's top PRI man," vanished here with the arrival of Oscar Ornelas 5 years ago. In fact, the grapevine is abuzz with rumors about a possible disappearance of authorities.

A local newsman commented ironically: "The authorities would not disappear in Chihuahua; they would simply reappear..." This sense of political neglect, of a power vacuum, is shared by wideranging grassroots segments that feel that PRI is that much more unlikely to win the 1986 election if Ornelas is still governor then.

There are abundant examples of the governor's lack of political sensitivity. The secretaries of agriculture and national defense, Eduardo Pesquiera and Juan Arevalo, visited the state a short while ago and conducted most of their activities and did most of their tour unaccompanied by the governor.

Something similar happened when the Supreme Court justices, headed by Chief Justice Jorge Inarritu, were here to inaugurate the single district courts, a state goal dating back to the time when Ornelas was public defender.

"Only Three Votes"

The governor, who is widely recognized as a fine professor and attorney and whose professional honesty no one questions, has not, in contrast, enjoyed popular support as a politician and public official. "At the polling place where he voted on 7 July, PRI got only three votes!" remarked a PRI official.

Ornelas is even thought to have an ideological affinity with PAN. To some this explains why he has been tolerant of PAN activity and why well-known members of that party are on the government team and even serve as PRI leaders.

Oscar Francisco Yanez, the governor's private secretary; Carlos Gallegos, the director of information and publicity, and Reyes Humberto de las Casas, the rector of the Autonomous University of Chihuahua and a member of PRI's state ideological publicity commission, among others, are generally recognized as members of PAN.

"The political situation in Chihuahua," Rector De las Casas feels, "has special traits and reflects the economic, not to mention political crisis in the country. A particular party, PAN, is in fact said to have made gains, but this does not mean that people are behind it. It is merely a way of protesting the economic situation."

"Ultimately, this is merely an indication that there is democracy in Mexico and that PAN has a chance to win office. The will of the voters was respected at the most recent election; in general, PRI won most of the elections around the nation."

The rector and PRI leader added that the crux of the problem is the "lack of unity within the ranks of PRI." This split means that the people who will run PRI henceforth must be chosen very carefully, true leaders who have charisma. Nevertheless, the chances of beating PAN rest on the ideological principles of the revolution, he went on to say.

"The opposition won seats and mayor's posts. That is democracy! Moreover, the Right's relative growth shouldn't scare anyone," he remarked. The Left has not made gains "because its principles are not democratic and where it is in power there are fascist dictatorships, without democracy. Its principles are sophisms and ideological fantasies."

Large Estates Still Exist

Jose Bernardo Ruiz Ceballos, the secretary general of the League of Agrarian Communities and Peasant Unions (CNC), emphasized that in the most recent elections "we peasant farmers made the responsible gesture that the party deserves." He cautioned, however, that "we need to again take up the banners of the revolution in the state or else discouragement and desertion will increase in the countryside. Several groups are passing us by, and some officials are not responsive to the system."

PRI did, in fact, have no problem on 7 July winning in rural districts, and Ruiz Ceballos himself is now a federal deputy-elect. This contrasts with the defeats that PRI suffered in urban areas, where the CNOP and CTM are now predominant.

The CNC leader voiced concern, however, over the continued presence of factors that might have a political impact in the countryside. "There are still large estates in Chihuahua. There are disguised single-family subdivisions ranging from 50 up to 100 hectares on the best summer pasture lands in the state."

In contrast, 25,000 peasant families who are fully entitled to a piece of land have been filing claims for more than 15 years now. In addition, the agrarian authorities have still not done anything about at least 120,000 nonattachability permits that expired some time ago.

In the face of this situation, the peasant leader has urged government agencies to take to the countryside to resolve the problem, because the branches of the secretariats of agrarian reform, agriculture, health and public education operate with notorious "sectoral elitism." "The alliance between PRI and the administration is neither a secret nor something to be ashamed of."

Ruiz Ceballos explained that as a result of social changes the erstwhile large cattlemen and farmers have become big businessmen and industrialists and, until recently, shareholders in the four private banking groups that existed in Chihuahua until 1982: Comermex, Regional del Norte, Provincial del Norte and Credito Mexicano.

In other words, he added, the nationalization of the banks prompted the groups whose interests were harmed to attack the system and eventually to support the

National Action Party. "But they have not fooled the peasants, because underlying their attacks is a move against the ejido."

Kicking the Loafers out of PRI

After admitting that there are infiltrators in PRI, he forcefully demanded: "PRI has to kick out the loafers who are trying to auction off Mexico's patrimony and territory."

The monolithic control of the labor movement by official federations has broken up most obviously in this state, in the wake of the death of Senator Refugio Mar de la Rosa, who for decades ran the state CTM. His successor, Doroteo Zapata, was immediately overtaken by groups of veteran leaders who felt they were more entitled to succeed Mar de la Rosa, and their disrespect was reflected at the polls.

Zapata, who received confirmation of a majority vote to back his victory in the seventh district of the state capital, was "frozen" by the Federal Electoral Commission and is now awaiting a ruling from the Electoral College, while his sector rivals underscore that his defeat resulted from his candidacy having been imposed by national CTM leader Fidel Velazquez.

The assistant secretary general of the CTM State Executive Committee until a year ago, Zapata had been a labor lawyer for business and then a trial lawyer for the Federation of State Workers. When Mar de la Rosa died, under the bylaws he took over a leader, which shattered the already shaky CTM unity.

To all of these elements of the political atmosphere in Chihuahua we should add the attitude of businessmen and merchants, who are subtly, indirectly criticizing the system and hailing PAN's election strides. "The most recent election was a civics lesson," said the president of CANACO [National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism], Arturo Chretien.

He feels that the PAN fever is partly explainable as the reaction of citizens to measures in previous administrations, such as the nationalization of the banks, the absence of legal assurances, the "crushing blows to the populace such as the devaluations of the peso and the spectacular cases of unexplainable enrichment that came out at the start of the current administration."

Resentment Towards the System

All of this, the Chihuahua business leader concluded, has generated deep-seated resentment towards the system, which has spurred traditionally passive social groups to become more involved. "CANACO does not get involved as an organization, but we will defend the right of businessmen to become involved in politics," he added.

Manuel Russek, the former rector of the Autonomous University of Chihuahua and former secretary general of government under Manuel Bernardo Aguirre, feels that PRI needs to regroup its forces and bring back its most distinguished members, including the people who are now sitting on the political sideline.

Their experience is valuable and extremely important in preventing further setbacks.

He added that not only have valuable PRI members been eliminated but the party has neglected the training of political staff because of overconfidence and lack of information, while PAN is working hard in all strata of society.

This has given rise to sharp anti-PRI feelings even among the social groups that are supposedly PRI constituents, as PAN convinces them that it is an alternative for change, even though they are unaware of the ideological principles or the political platform of the National Action Party.

[16 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 21-A, 30-A]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 15 Aug--"The corruption scandals and the shocking information about Diaz Serrano, Durazo Moreno and the Lopez-Portillo family, combined with the economic crisis that caused living standards to plummet, the excessive foreign debt, the devaluation of the peso and the poor selection of PRI candidates" have caused dissatisfaction with the system and provided fertile ground for the strengthening of PAN, said the opposition party's top state representatives.

Guillermo Prieto Lujan, the chairman of the Regional Steering Committee, and the mayors of Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez, Luis H. Alvarez and Francisco Barrio Terrazas, gave that explanation of political developments in the state, but they also asserted that PAN's strength is nothing new. "Many years of work have left their mark; there is greater politicization, and it can be seen even among children," Alvarez noted.

Just as important as the factors cited by these PAN leaders are the clergy's influence on citizens; the impact of the so-called "charismatic movement" in the Catholic Church; the public support from well-known businessmen; the use of complex publicity tools and the recourse to flashy tactics such as fasts, signature-gathering, guards outside polling places and other actions that are part of the "peaceful resistance" that has been the pillar of PAN's victories.

This form of resistance is based on the charismatic movement (also called "renewal of the spirit"), which calls for more active involvement by Catholics in social and political life. Its most prominent proponents in the state are Mayor Barrio Terrazas; the chief clerk of the Juarez city government, Sergio Conde Varela; local Deputy Jose Rafael Terrazas, all of them from PAN, and PRI Senator Jose Socorro Salcido.

Adalberto Almeida Merino, the archbishop of Chihuahua, admitted that in his archdiocese citizens were asked to vote in the recent elections, inasmuch as "the comprehensive evangelization of man tends to bring about a complete enjoyment of values in the political, economic, social, cultural and religious areas."

Monsignor Almeida had this to say about the charismatic movement, which exerts obvious political influence in the state: "I approve of the charismatic movement because it has values that are essential for the community. It aims

at brotherhood and the inspiration of life in the faith, in devotion and, particularly, in the Holy Spirit."

These principles governing the life of the charismatics largely explain the political success of Barrio Terrazas, who uses colloquial language at his meetings and obviously takes advantage of the religious sentiments of his followers. They view the mayor as charismatic not only in a religious sense but also because of his strong personality.

PAN is Synonymous with Honesty, Elizondo Says

The support of businessmen, moreover, can be clearly seen in Gustavo Elizondo, the president of the Business Center of Ciudad Juarez, a prosperous construction company owner and auto parts vendor who spares no praise or personal effort on PAN's behalf. "PAN is synonymous with honesty, hope and efficient administration. PAN's victories in Chihuahua will be a turning point in Mexico's history. I don't have the slightest doubt about it."

Among his daily activities the business leader accompanies the PAN mayor to inaugurate public works, pushes for public services in low-income districts and takes part in sessions to analyze the socioeconomic problems in Ciudad Juarez. He now seems to be the strongest candidate to take over as mayor in 1986.

The businessmen who have become politically involved have also left behind their traditional language and are apparently more understanding about social injustices. "It is just scandalous how the income of the workers has been eroding!" said Elizondo in an interview at his home in the exclusive Club Campestre in Ciudad Juarez.

He gave his explanation for the rise of PAN in Chihuahua. "The nationalization of the banks was what caused private enterprise to stop trusting the political system; the Federal Government's soft stand on ending corruption; the foreign debt that brought on the crisis. All of this paved the way for the people to speak out loudly against the system."

A militant PAN member, the president of the Business Center indicated that in spurring his party's growth "we have taken advantage solely of the situation that the government itself has created." After voicing his conviction that the system is falling apart, he stated: "I have no doubt that many officials realize that they are harming the country, but they would rather be on the administration bandwagon while they still can."

Minimal Campaigning by PAN

Barrio Terrazas recalls the climate prevailing on the eve of the municipal and local legislative elections in 1983. "There was a severe economic crisis. The big corruption scandals were popping up. The Diaz Serrano fraud, which came out 2 days before the elections; Durazo Moreno and Lopez-Portillo's family, with incredible disclosures such as 75 million pesos in jewelry purchases for Mrs Carmen Romano; the case of Deputy Miguel Lerma Candelaria. All of this gave rise to unrest among the people..."

With these revelations as its campaign weapons, PAN has posted maximum election gains with minimal political and even financial effort, as it spent proportionally less on the recent election than on the one 2 years ago. Its advantage lies in the already deep-rooted anti-PRI feelings.

In his analysis of why the party has grown, PAN state leader Prieto Lujan remarked that its strength is nothing new in the state. He recalled the founder of PAN, Manuel Gomez Morin, who was born in the state. He also cited the campaigns of Luis H. Alvarez for president in 1958 and governor in 1956, as well as other battles. He then stated:

"At present we have a better organization and more prominent candidates. The economic situation is working against a monopoly of power, and many able young people are joining the party. Our recent victories, for example, are endorsements of the performance of the PAN mayors who have been the main targets of dirty, slanderous attacks: the ones in Chihuahua, Ciudad Juarez and Parral."

Another element that has helped PAN, in his view, is that fact that PRI now has "the most inept state leadership that I know of and which thought it could hold back our gains through personal insults." Another comment: "The mechanisms of PRI political control are crumbling, especially in the unions."

Reluctant to account for the absence of a staunch PAN following, Prieto Lujan acknowledged, however, that the party has to make inroads into the large segment of the population that has no clear-cut political position, and to this end "quick courses in (PAN) doctrine are being taught."

Money Is Not What Brings Us Together

The chairman of the PAN Municipal Council in Ciudad Juarez, Roberto Torres, countered the charge that his party is a club of millionaires. "I'm well off, true, but most of our members don't have money. Some leaders live well but because they have worked hard all their lives. Gonzalez Torres, Conchello, Pablo Emilio Madero still have to work. In any event, money is not what brings us together."

"The party is not a tool of the rich," he added. "We do get large contributions, but the donors don't demand anything in return. Otherwise, you would have already noticed their hand in city government. If anyone contributes money in the hope of getting something in return, he better realize that giving money to PAN is not a good investment."

"Don Beto," as the PAN leader is familiarly called, reported that the largest contribution he had ever received was 200,000 pesos. "I've never even gotten a half million pesos." He then emphasizes how relative money is. "Forty years ago someone came and contributed 5,000 pesos to the party, and a shocked leader asked the person who had accepted it: Did you sell off the party?" He then asserted that at present "we're just asking for handouts."

PAN Backs Ornelas

All of the PRI leaders we have mentioned, as well as the representatives of top private sector organizations, praised the performance of Governor Oscar Ornelas. "Holding him accountable for the crisis in PRI is just trying to make someone who is blameless pay the piper," said Barrio Terrazas.

The rector of the Autonomous University of Chihuahua, Reyes Humberto de las Casas, who is regarded here as a "PAN-ized member of PRI," forcefully defended what the state governor is doing: "Ornelas is a strong and honest man. He is being criticized because he respects the vote and democracy."

"The governor is an honest man who loves Chihuahua. He is in office at a very bad time, when the opposition is strong for the first time in many years, but he has done a good job," said the president of the National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism, Arturo Chretien.

Two factions that took shape just 2 years ago can clearly be seen within PAN in this state: the traditional PAN and the new PAN. The former abides by the party's most deeply rooted principles, while the latter is more dynamic, has new tactics and strategies and is apparently less conservative, bent on gaining support for the party from any source.

Luis H. Alvarez, who has been a PAN activist for more than 30 years, and Roberto Torres are the most prominent representatives of the traditional faction, which has been reactivated by the presence of Barrio, Elizondo and others who are regarded as spokesmen of the new PAN. Guillermo Prieto has brought them all together to score victories for his party.

PAN's rise has been so solid and quick that when Luis H. Alvarez ran for mayor of the state capital in 1983, he got 50,000 votes, compared to just 9,000 3 years before. And in Cuauhtemoc, where there were only "eight old ladies and two old men" who voted for PAN in 1983, the party now has a large constituency, an organization "and even an office for its municipal committee."

[17 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 1-A]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 16 Aug--Manuel Talamas Camandari, the bishop of Ciudad Juarez, stated: "There is a real yearning for democracy in this state, and the Church has indeed helped to develop a deeper civic awareness. People in Mexico were used to the faith not getting involved in politics, to a religion that consoled the afflicted but that did not speak out against injustice, lies and deception. That is why those who feel adversely affected by the civic awakening based on the faith oppose what we are doing."

Adalberto Almeida Merino, the archbishop of Chihuahua, justified thus the Church's ignoring of Article 130 of the constitution: "The moral order is higher than the legal order, and if a law is unjust, a Catholic is not obliged to observe it," adding that "in this state there is deep-seated mistrust and a striking degree of rejection of the system."

This explains why from the pulpits and in the mass media, with heavy financing and on a full-time basis, the Catholic Church is fostering dissatisfaction with the system and influencing the population politically, in an overt, unabashed campaign that the Church hierarchy calls "comprehensive evangelization" and that is complemented by a wide-ranging, influential and well-organized lay movement."

In this regard, Pedro Matus, the leader of the Popular Defense Committees (CDP's), the most important leftwing organization in the state, indicated that PAN's gains at the ballot box are the result of the Church's, not the party's efforts. "The priests are playing politics for PAN's benefit, and Governor Oscar Ornelas is tolerating it. If the Federal Government does not step in and stop the priests, Chihuahua will be the first state with an opposition governor."

The CDP leader contended that prominent clergymen take part in PAN rallies, that churches proselytize for PAN on Sunday, that nuns petition the PAN city hall for public services, and that, in general, the clergy are constantly involving themselves in political matters. Strict measures are needed to make them comply with the law.

Francisco Rodriguez Perez, the chairman of the PRI State Steering Committee; Alberto Heredia Castillo, a member of the PSUM State Committee; Raul Hernandez Quezada, a Cuauhtemoc city hall official, and other politicians we interviewed also agreed that "the clergy undeniably supports PAN."

Three-day courses on Christianity for adults and young people are being held all over the state with the approval of the archdiocese, but unlike in the past, more than religious activities are included. For 2 years now these gatherings have also included analyses of social and political realities, Hernandez Quezada reported.

The political impact of the activities of countless Protestant sects in the state is also worrisome. There are 17 of them in the municipality of Chihuahua alone. Through an alienating, divisive message of acquiescence, they transmit a theology that fits in with plans for foreign domination.

Charismatics with Political Power

Raul Macin, a student of the impact of religion on society, has written that these sects "show us a capitalist God, an insipid, acquiescent, docile Christ who is incapable of helping the oppressed, a distorted God who is always on the side of the white man and the powerful, who looks askance at the dark-skinned and the poor."

The movement in the Catholic Church that is called "renewal of the spirit" or the "charismatic movement" also embraces the members of certain Protestant sects and is backed by "unlimited financial resources to round out its ruinous work, lull the people to sleep, rob them of their desire for liberation and crush them with a sentimentalist and alienating religion," Macin argues.

The presence of the Church in Chihuahua politics is already being clearly felt. The mayor and chief clerk of Ciudad Juarez, Francisco Barrio Terraza and Sergio Conde Varela, and local Deputy Jose Rafael Terrazas are the most prominent members of the charismatic movement with political power.

Brother Varela is what his fellow party members call him, and the mayor is always professing his faith: "I am the way," reads the inscription at the foot of a Christ on his keychain.

The charismatic movement, Archbishop Almeida explains, advocates brotherhood and finding inspiration for life in the faith, in devotion and in the Holy Spirit and feels that charisma is a gift from God to serve the community. Unlike the Theology of Liberation, which calls for a more direct commitment against injustice and oppression, the charismatic movement seeks man's liberation through prayer and community faith.

On the international scene, Cardinal Suenens in Brussels is the best known adherent of this movement, one of whose main proponents in Mexico is Father Alfonso Navarro and whose most loyal followers are laymen.

Analyzing the political situation in Chihuahua, Monsignor Almeida stated that PAN won clearly in more than the four districts in which its victory on 7 July was acknowledged, commenting that "the civic awareness of citizens has been loudly awakened, and they are thus prepared to defend their vote in any way they can."

He emphasized that the Church has merely urged people to vote, adding, however, that "the people are by now well-informed and well aware of the multimillion-peso frauds that have been going on all over the nation, which has prompted great mistrust and even rejection of the system. All of this influenced the outcome of the election."

The Church does not proselytize for any political party, he said, acknowledging, however, that PAN's basic principles of freedom, justice and respect for life coincide with the tenets of the Catholic Church. In this regard, he admitted as well that the clergy are calling on people to vote conscientiously and critically and to distinguish between the principles of each party."

PRI Can Be Saved

PRI also espouses praiseworthy principles, the archbishop continued, but he noted: "Only, we have to distinguish between what is being said, who is saying it and whether he is willing to keep his word."

In response to a question about whether PRI is finished, he said: "I wouldn't condemn anyone as incapable of redemption. We can all redeem ourselves. But the deep-seated mistrust of the system is obvious. I'm not saying that PRI is irredeemable; we can all change our lives. But I am going by the judgment of the people, who are now beginning to respond and have a keen understanding."

He said that the Church cannot abandon its commitment to comprehensive evangelization, which means exerting influence in politics, the economy, society, culture and religion. Otherwise, it is not evangelization.

He regretted that there are proportionally fewer priests in Chihuahua than in other states but was pleased that the lay movement here is very large and has great influence. "The laity has taken its place in the Church," he said.

Throughout the state there are youth, family, pro-life, women's and many other organizations that are an essential part of the Catholic Church.

Talamas Camandari stated that the Church has had influence in politics "by bringing about a deeper, more balanced civic awareness" because "we cannot remain uninvolved in politics, as we were before." We must fight for a true democracy, he added.

Although the civic awareness that the Church has awakened might now be helping PAN at the ballot box, perhaps later, when our democracy is more developed, support will shift to another party. "The longing now is for true democracy. The single party, the steam roller, the party that wants 'every last one' has created a vacuum of civic responsibility."

Regarding the constitutional ban on clergy involvement in politics, he indicated that it stems from the sort of schooling that has been given to children and young people. The government has tried to inculcate in them the idea that there is no reason for the faith to manifest itself in politics, that it is an internal, individual matter. "They understand a faith that consoles the afflicted but not that speaks out against injustice, lies and deception. This is why those who feel that their interests are adversely affected by the civic awakening based on the faith oppose what we are doing and have become our accusers."

He added that "our civic awareness and our citizen involvement in politics should enable us to turn Mexico into a hospitable home with a well-spread table for all Mexicans. I consider it my civic responsibility that everyone should be discerning when choosing an ideology, a political platform or a candidate."

Talamas Camandari said that he was happy that "many citizens are now ridding themselves of their indifference and apathy and even, in some cases, of personal interests that kept them in one party."

"For the Record: I Am Not Judging Parties"

The archbishop, who takes his political struggle personally, told these correspondents: "Let me say this for the record: Parties aside, because I'm not judging parties, when a political organization perpetuates itself in power, but not under a true democracy, it gives rise to a great many parasites who are interested only in making a profit from politics. Prolonged rule corrupts, creates cronyism and interest group commitments and produces a superstructure that shuts out democracy."

When Talamas was a 21-year old student at the Gregorian University in Rome, he handed out leaflets supporting the oil industry expropriation decreed by Cardenas, and he now regards himself as one of the most socially involved bishops, "along with Samuel Ruiz, Lona and Almeida." A poet and pleasant conversationalist, Talamas concluded:

"It is my hope that President Miguel de la Madrid will truly be able to lead us towards a better developed democracy. I hope that he truly realizes that the time has come for it. It would be of great benefit to Mexico."

[18 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 10-A, 27-A]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 17 Aug--Powerful economic groups that control agriculture, livestock raising, forestry, mining, commerce, industry and, until 1982, banking, are fanning the political flames in this state and helping PAN in revenge for the nationalization of the banks.

Capital raised under the system's wing gave rise here to four flourishing banks (Comermex, Credito Mexicano, Provincial and Regional del Norte), which eventually became the nation's fourth largest financial group, and its members are carrying the seed of political vengeance.

On 16 November 1984, Jose Bernardo Ruiz Ceballos, the leader of the League of Agrarian Communities (CNC), complained to President De la Madrid about the "machinations and ambushes of economic groups" that are interested in damaging our institutions and about the actions of "employees and officials devoid of revolutionary ideology" who are entrenched in government solely to further interest groups or factions.

The silent but constant activity of the economic power groups, combined with the state government's limited capacity for political bargaining and reconciliation, have succeeded in seriously undermining the social base and even in drawing employees of federal agencies into the "rightist wave." The bank that helps farmers is called "PANrural," for example, as many of its employees are PAN sympathizers.

Proselytizing for PAN

A similar phenomenon can be seen in institutions such as Social Security, the Federal Register of Vehicles and the branch of the Commerce Secretariat, among others, where officials and employees openly proselytize for PAN, asserted the leader of the CCI, Felix Garcia Cardenas.

"Government institutions and agencies are still being infiltrated by employees and officials devoid of a revolutionary ideology, who appropriate State resources for their personal ends, who charge for services that the agencies are supposed to provide free, and who occupy posts in government only to further interest groups or factions, thus putting distance between the people and their institutions," Ruiz Ceballos said on 16 November.

Peasant farmer leaders have reason to speak out, inasmuch as the best known fortunes in this state were made in agriculture. This can be seen from a map

of Chihuahua that was drawn up during the administration of Governor Oscar Flores Sanchez in 1971. According to this official document, 58 percent of the state's surface area is classified as "small property" (higher than the national average), 30 percent as ejido and the rest as communal.

The small properties, however, include countless large estates owned by well-known families. According to the document, Oscar Flores Sanchez owns a 14,502 hectare plot of land; his son Enrique, another 10,085 hectares; his son Oscar Flores, another 15,000 hectares; and his son-in-law Nicolas Yapar, a 5,649 hectare plot.

The family of General and former Governor Rodrigo M. Quevedo also appears on the map, Guillermo Quevedo with an 11,124-hectare ranch and Hortensia C. de Quevedo with 12,221 hectares of the finest summer pasture lands in the state. "The revolution has created large estates," say financial circles in the state.

Names and More Names of Large Estate Owners

Closely linked to the Quevedo family are the Borundas, the descendants of former Governor Teofilo Borunda, who are now one of the wealthiest families in the state. Roberto Borunda Quevedo owns 7,274 hectares; Margarita Q. de Borunda, 12,999 hectares; Laura Cecilia Romo Quevedo, 8,331 hectares; Luis M. Romo Quevedo, 12,999 hectares, and Alicia Carrillo de Borunda, 10,000 hectares.

The official chart yields other names as well: Rodolfo Quevedo, with 15,000 hectares; Gloria Quevedo Romo, with a comparable plot; and the Pinocelly family, which together owns 30 major plots that unquestionably constitute a huge estate.

Living side by side with the large landowners in the state, over a total of 24.7 million hectares, are the ejido farmers, who are having all sorts of problems getting loans, advisory services, infrastructure and social aid. The concentration of land in this sector is not that heavy, as 75 or more families work on a 5,000-hectare ejido.

Some of the families that live off of the state's natural resources call the United States home, however, such as Macedonio Navar, who lives in El Paso but owns 97,000 hectares in Chihuahua.

Just as in farming and livestock raising, patrician surnames are readily found in forestry and mining, as the descendants of Gen Antonio Guerrero "exploit practically the entire forested area of Chihuahua," while mining regions with untold riches in gold, silver, zinc and lead are also in the hands of private individuals.

For the time being, the state's mining resources are undeveloped. The concession holders are maintaining their rights to them but are not willing to invest in the basic infrastructure (roads, electrification) that would enable them to be exploited. They are simply waiting for the government to put the infrastructure in.

Although their fortunes were made on the land, they have managed, in a few decades, to control other activities such as industry and commerce. For example, the Borunda family, which was primarily involved in farming, diversified into the fruit agroindustry and construction, or the Flores Sanchez family, which got involved in banking through the financial "genius" Eloy Vallina.

The Banco Provincial del Norte belonged to the Fernandez Montreals; Credito Mexicano to the Creel Sisniegas; Regional del Norte to the Quevedos, and Comermex to Vallina, all of them families that had good relations with the system, until the banks were nationalized in 1982.

Perhaps the Church Too

The financial power groups then started to actively promote the involvement of businessmen in politics, and in the opinion of Mario Almeida, the PRT chief clerk in Ciudad Juarez, "perhaps the Church too resented the bank nationalization because it was no secret that it was involved with one of the best known banks."

In his Villa Aldama speech, Ruiz Ceballos spoke of the "machinations and ambushes of economic groups in forestry, agriculture, credit, insurance and other services, which damage the finances of the peasants and eventually reduce output and harm our institutions."

"In spite of countless, obvious facts, the charges are craftily brushed aside," he said.

Moreover, the businessmen's wealth gives them broad latitude for involvement in politics. "Many make financial contributions to both PRI and PAN, very much like the Gringos. The financially powerful in the United States play ball with both the Republican and Democratic parties during campaigns, thus safeguarding their interests no matter who wins," remarked the assistant director of external affairs of the Center for Northern Mexico Border Studies, Maria Guillermina Valdes de Villalva.

Alfredo Rohana, the secretary general of PRI's Steering Committee in the state, acknowledged that "there is a strong business sector that felt it had been hurt by the system's moves," specifically the nationalization of the banks.

Among the major figures who support PRI and PAN alike both politically and financially are Enrique Quevedo, Tomas Fernandez, Juan Fernandez, Constantino Fernandez, Oscar Ruiz, Emilio Touche, Eloy Vallina, Francisco Flores, Felipe Gonzalez, David Alvarez, Juan Reynal, Juan Ochoa, Ruben Barrio, Jaime Galvan, Luis Roberto Licon, Eugenio Baeza, Jesus Yanez, Miguel Anchondo, Dereck Dumn, Ronald Taylor, Roberto Dominguez, Alfonso Valdes, Jorge Rascon and Roberto Valenzuela.

Juan Manuel Terrazas, a PRI federal deputy, said that given the prevailing situation in Chihuahua "some drastic changes have to be made before the state

falls apart politically and economically," a state that played a prominent role during the period of the reform and during the revolution as well.

There is no reactionary ideology in Chihuahua, he added. It is a profoundly revolutionary state, but "there has been a lack of political leadership," and President De la Madrid's moral renovation has to be enforced. The ideas of the revolution have to be given new life, and "the ideological link between the state and federal governments has to be reestablished."

Terrazas, a declared enemy of Oscar Ornelas's administration, was asked about the political ferment in his state shortly after he had gotten together at a Federal District restaurant with his fellow Chihuahua lawmakers precisely because of the press coverage that the state has been getting.

[19 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 10-A, 31-A]

[Text] Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, 18 Aug--Proximity to the self-proclaimed most democratic country in the world, where democracy means taking turns in power; the aggressively damaging and inaccurate reports that the U.S. media carry about Mexico; the currency problems and the general impact of the economic crisis, in addition to a longstanding vacuum of political organization, have brought about a pronounced swing to the right among the one million residents of this city.

The population of Ciudad Juarez, moreover, feels betrayed by a system that has been unable to resolve severe health care, educational, housing and transportation problems, while PAN's predominance reflects not the party's political strength but "the need for and hope of change."

Political leaders, academics and representatives of production sectors who analyzed the economic, political and ideological situation in this city, in which PRI is in the clear minority, mentioned the economic crisis as the catalyst of PAN's gains at the ballot box. This week the Electoral College will certify its victory in three majority deputy districts.

Accustomed to buying basic and nonessential goods in El Paso; enjoying a higher level of income than other areas of the country, but still not enough to meet elementary needs; influenced socially and culturally by the American way of life, the local population was embittered by the economic crisis and the successive devaluations of the peso, which here meant shortages and a sharp decline in the quality of life.

On the political scene, according to Dr Maria Guillermina Valdes de Villalva, the assistant director of the Center for Northern Mexico Border Studies, people are accustomed to the United States' description of itself as "the most democratic country in the world" and to a change of ruling party, which makes an election campaign based on principles, platforms and programs difficult.

"Many people here really believe that democracy means parties taking turns in power and make their political choices on the basis of the candidates' personalities and slogans," she said, adding that PAN has capitalized on this phenomenon at the ballot box.

The city's geographic location has also made things easier for a U.S. press that publishes inaccurate, harmful and distorted information about Mexico, because of the U.S. Government's fears about social unrest in Central America. Such reporting is well received, however, among the people of Ciudad Juarez, and this heightens their lack of faith in the Mexican system.

The ideological impact of proximity to the United States can be clearly seen in the comments of PAN Mayor Francisco Barrio. While denying that people along this section of the border are losing their national identity, he remarked: "We do not need to remind people that they are Mexican. They are reminded by their daily activities, when they have to make at times painful comparisons."

"They compare living conditions, and the difference is not in their favor. They see an entirely democratic political system in which parties do not have to fight tooth and nail to have their victories recognized, like in Mexico. And they have to make other comparisons and, whether they like it or not, admit that there is real democracy in the United States."

Serious Inadequacies

Ideology aside, Ciudad Juarez is faced with serious inadequacies in the areas of social welfare, schooling, jobs, food, transportation, housing and other development indicators.

As a result of the Border Industrialization Program, the assembly industry that was established two decades ago has only partly resolved the jobs problems, because six percent demographic growth has turned the area into a major supplier of cheap manpower, especially for the assembly-industry firms, which now employ some 120,000 persons.

These factories were looking in particular for women and young people with at least a sixth-grade education but did not make labor or union commitments, under the special legislation passed for them, and are currently hotbeds of social unrest.

"The assembly industries have no legal commitments and could leave the country in 10 hours at the most. Dismantling them, however, would mean that 120,000 workers would be out of jobs, and that is enough to trigger a real rebellion in the north," a woman lawmaker remarked.

Although jobs are not the number one problem right now, there are three categories of poor people in this city, according to a study that the Center for Northern Mexico Border Studies submitted to PRI in 1982. "The first is where the relatively high per capital income is not equitably distributed; the second is when income does not cover basic needs, and the third comprises large groups living in extreme poverty."

As far as diet is concerned, 84 percent of the million residents of Ciudad Juarez have nutritional deficiencies, and only 16 percent regularly consume meat, eggs, fish and milk. The average diet became even more inadequate during the 1982 crisis, however, when "the people who usually bought 3 kilograms of

tortillas cut their intake to just 1, bought milk by the glass and eggs individually instead of by the dozen."

The World Health Organization says that 1 hospital bed per 220 inhabitants is acceptable. Conditions are quite different in Ciudad Juarez, where there is 1 bed for every 493 residents and "poor health seems to be the lot of all" since the root of the problem is another inadequate public service, drinking water.

The water shortage is the main cause of transmissible disease, and only 7 out of 10 people have access to this service, which the aforementioned study describes as "intermittent and unhealthful."

Many other social problems plague the residents of this border city. Housing is notable among them, as two-thirds of Ciudad Juarez families cannot afford a decent place to live. Urban transportation is another major problem, controlled as it is by unscrupulous union leaders who secure permits and franchises in exchange for their cooperation and control over the workers.

The PAN city government has made no headway in transportation, as much out of political prudence as because the state government assigns the franchises. Roberto Delgado Urias, a leader of the CRT; Jose Sosa from the CTM, and Luis Vidal from the CROC run the transportation system practically all over the state, as did CTM leader Refugio Mar de la Rosa during his lifetime.

Under these circumstances, the population of Ciudad Juarez pays the consequences, in the words of a prominent businessman. The people who have to ride in the degrading, ramshackle station wagons that serve as collective taxis have a 1 1/2 to 2-hour commute to and from work.

Furthermore, Barrio Terrazas has made no progress in an area in which his party is truly vulnerable: the countless bars, taverns, night clubs and poorly disguised brothels. Together, these establishments give Ciudad Juarez the sort of vice-ridden atmosphere that still makes it the playground for so-called "white trash."

Most PAN and PRI circles are convinced that the election of PAN's Eduardo Turati as the majority deputy from Chihuahua's first district could cause conflict within PAN, inasmuch as the new legislator is from the National Parents Union, which has made combating vice and immorality its number one cause.

In explaining the gradual shift to the right by the people of Ciudad Juarez, Dr Valdes de Villalva indicated that although their ideology is noticeably more conservative than in the past, it is difficult to determine citizens' party preference in spite of PAN's victories at the ballot box.

Bishop Talamas Camandari has played a major role in this swing to the right, as he is more concerned about democracy than social justice and invariably associates democracy with the National Action Party. Moreover, the bishop is a genuine spiritual adviser to PAN leaders, she added.

Many people were politically and ideologically disoriented on election day last 7 July, as we can gather from the 15 votes that were cast for "the kingdom of God" in one Juarez district!

But whereas this anecdote is cause for laughter, recent surveys among members of PRI and PAN in this state and mainly in Ciudad Juarez have shown that there are no major differences between them on issues such as landownership, price controls, foreign investment, government economic policy-making and others that might reveal an ideological gap. "The move to the right is a fact," says Dr Valdes de Villalva.

30,000 "Cholos" in Disadvantaged Districts

Immersed in these social and economic conditions, themselves the products of the family upheavals that came with the assembly industry, 30,000 "cholos" wander through the disadvantaged areas and even the downtown section of this city. Crime and drug addiction are serious problems among these peculiarly dressed youth.

The PAN authorities have failed here too. Cultural, job and health care assistance programs have failed to end the social disenfranchisement of this segment of the population.

According to students of the "cholo phenomenon," the presence of the assembly industry has led to family upheavals because it has meant rising wages mostly for women, to the detriment of the traditional male role. Many young boys have thus felt educationally and financially deprived and even emotionally neglected. And it was not long before this turmoil led to the social problem of the "cholos."

Carrying huge ghetto blasters, wearing peculiar attire, behaving disrespectfully, without jobs and with high rates of drug addiction, alcoholism and crime, the "cholos" pose a real challenge to the authorities who are in charge of bringing young people into the economy and the development effort.

[20 Aug 85 pp 1-A, 16-A, 21-A]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 19 Aug--A PRI that has been weakened by internal strife and beset by pressure groups and a PAN that is "in an ideal position" to win its first governorship are already preparing for the 1986 election, when Governor Oscar Ornelas will hand over a state that is out of political control and stigmatized by much-talked-about cases of drug trafficking and even corruption.

PRI and PAN are virtually the only competitors in next year's elections, as other parties and factions have no real presence. The names of 10 or so gubernatorial hopefuls are being bandied about within the PRI ranks, while PAN is pinning its hopes on two aspirants: Francisco Barrio Terrazas and Luis H. Alvarez, the mayors of Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua respectively.

Economic power groups, political organizations and influence groups headed by former governors, by state or federal government officials and even by individuals who have seemingly been ostracized, have been operating for some time now with their eyes riveted on what is regarded as the most complex and troublesome election for the system on the 1986 calendar.

Fernando Baeza, Alonso Aguirre Ramos, Jose Ernesto Costemalle, Jose Socorro Salcido, Diamantina Reyes Esparza, Francisco Rodriguez Perez, Enrique de la Barra and Enrique Soto Izquierdo are some of the PRI hopefuls who have the best chances of winning their party's nomination. They are also being mentioned as replacements for Ornelas in the event that he does not complete his term of office.

Eschewing the closed-door nomination of candidates, patronage and other characteristic PRI limitations, the National Action Party enjoys flexibility of operation and is working hard to make the Chihuahua election a turning point in the country's political history by winning its first governorship since it was founded 45 years ago. The candidacies of Barrio and H. Alvarez are being debated without overt reluctance.

A public accountant, a member of the "new" PAN, a former official in INFONAVIT and in PRI city governments, as well as a former employee in the assembly industry for the wealthy Bermudez family, Barrio Terrazas is faced with the personal dilemma of whether or not to accept the nomination for governor.

"I have not yet decided whether I will accept. But if I do decide to run, I have already clearly worked out a series of steps that I am going to take at the proper time, steps that have never before been taken in the country and that are going to prompt unprecedented reactions as well. I am talking about peaceful, legal measures to defend the vote," said the mayor of Ciudad Juarez and the prominent member of the Church's charismatic movement.

The mayor acknowledged that it is "hard but not impossible" for an opposition party to win a gubernatorial election, adding that he was certain that "our prospects are very good, extremely good, unbeatable. We're heading straight down the track on a thoroughbred."

And what sort of platform would Barrio Terrazas offer the people of Chihuahua? Speaking in his office, on one wall of which hang a replica of Mexico's Declaration of Independence, an official photograph of the nation's president and several plaques from private groups, the mayor merely said: "I have no answer to that question as yet. I have to steep myself further in the details of the state's problems."

In his comfortable office on the second floor of a modern building that the last PRI Chihuahua city government built but never occupied, Barrio Terrazas has two huge windows through which he casts occasional glances at El Paso, Texas, on one side, and southward toward the state capital on the other.

Luis H. Alvarez is a veteran PAN member and a former presidential, gubernatorial and senatorial candidate, finally becoming mayor of Chihuahua after an unsuccessful bid in 1980. Like Barrio, he has a major following in

seeking the party's nomination at the convention that could be held next November.

A businessman in the denim industry and a former adviser to private banks, H. Alvarez is a forceful defender of his party's ideas and, in his own words, has "respectful and formal" but not cordial relations with the state government.

The possibility is not being ruled out that neither Barrio nor Alvarez will secure the PAN nomination, but for the time being the party's attention is focused on them alone. At a recent rally in the main square in Ciudad Juarez, a crowd estimated to number 3,000 applauded the two gubernatorial hopefuls with equal enthusiasm, and they enjoy comparable support in PAN influence groups such as business and the Church.

The leading PRI candidate seems to be federal Deputy-elect Fernando Baeza, who was Governor Manuel Bernardo Aguirre's private secretary, mayor of Delicias, Governor Oscar Flores Sanchez's private secretary and assistant attorney general of the republic under Flores Sanchez and then Garcia Ramirez.

Baeza is identified here with the political, economic and other interest groups that are headed by former Governor Flores Sanchez, who has refrained from making public statements and from taking part in political acts and whose presence every morning at the same local restaurant has prompted speculation and conjecture.

Alonso Aguirre Ramos is a federal deputy-elect, like Baeza, and though a general, does not have the backing of the military, inasmuch as Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui practically gave Baeza PRI's nod during a recent visit to the state. "Baeza is the best man that Chihuahua has," the general said.

Arevalo Gardoqui's assessment is perhaps shared by prominent businessman Eloy Vallina, whose allies in the business world also sympathize openly with Baeza Melendez, who is soon to be the congressional representative of the communities that make up the municipalities of Delicias, Camargo, Coyame, Ojinaga, Jimenez and others in the southern part of the state.

Political circles are saying, however, that Aguirre Ramos enjoys the backing of other prominent military officers, such as Gen Carlos Bermudez, which gives him a chance in the battle for the gubernatorial nomination. Senators Jose Socorro Salcido and Diamantina Reyes Esparza are also thought to have chances.

Francisco Rodriguez Perez, PRI's state leader, is the man "who might have been but will not be," even in the opinion of his closest colleagues. The most recent election returns and the defense of the Oscar Ornelas administration that party discipline has obliged him to make have practically eliminated his chances of obtaining the gubernatorial nomination.

There are also those who not only voice political judgments about Rodriguez Perez but also bring up points that apparently involve the Law of Responsibilities. "As a legislator, Rodriguez Perez cannot be granted customhouse brokerages by the Federal Executive Branch," say those who oppose

the professional activities of the PRI leader. "He has customhouse brokerages in Miami, Buenos Aires, El Paso and other cities," they went on to say.

Also on the list of candidates who hope to succeed Ornelas are the director of CONASUPO [National Company for Basic Commodities], Jose Ernesto Costemalle, who has the backing of government figures in the national capital, and the director of Banobras, Enrique Creel de la Barra, who belongs to one of the wealthiest families in the state.

Amid all this political ferment Enrique Soto Izquierdo, the secretary of the Greater Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, is also being mentioned as one of "the most viable" candidates, but it is also reported that "he already has a task force in Ciudad Juarez and another in the Federal District" as a precautionary measure in light of the political situation in the state.

The rest of the opposition parties are all but inactive and are expected to remain mere spectators at a contest in which the two-party system is a fact, not just a theory. Some will run candidates, such as the Socialist Workers Party, but their chances of winning are nil.

Lorenzo Holguin, a PRI leader in Ciudad Juarez and one of the candidates defeated by PAN at the most recent election, agreed that his party must intensify its political training and ideological publicity, so as to make the people of Chihuahua more politically knowledgeable. This is the way to halt the backlash, he added.

The PRI leader finds it "disconcerting to see professionals, middle class people and intellectuals who do not really know what PRI is get carried away by PAN, which conveniently and voicing harsh criticism, speaks of change without offering real answers to problems, without hard thinking."

PRI, he said, must also position itself in the vanguard of the system and abandon "damaging silence" about social conditions. It will thus be able to win back the voters who now, because of PAN's campaigning, blame the party for the government's mistakes. "Our hope is that this mass deception will not last," he stated.

Amid the ferment over the upcoming election, Chihuahua public opinion is not unaware of the fact that "many of the people being mentioned are not really enthusiastic about running in the race" inasmuch as the discovery of large marijuana plantations in the municipalities of Jimenez, Aldama and Rancho Bufalo a few months ago has unfairly tarnished the state's prestige. "Chihuahua has been tainted by marihuana. No one wants to succeed Ornelas," said a labor leader.

As if the state's political difficulties were not enough, conditions there are getting out of control, respect for authority is waning and the system in general has been weakened as a result of the Ornelas administration, as political parties and government agencies are already investigating the sensational cases of corruption attributed to it.

NICARAGUA

CENTER FOR ABANDONED, WORKING CHILDREN TO OPEN

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Aug 85 p 12

[Text] In September the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security and Welfare will open another Community Center for 400 children who run the risk of becoming vagrants or delinquents.

This new center has been built at the west side of the Alesio Blandon Normal School in the Ariel Darce district of this capital.

The objective is for the children to be cared for from noon on, receiving lunch, tutoring with school work, sports and manual training.

The announcement was made by comrades Mariana Lugo and Gioconda Ordonez, social worker and psychologist, respectively, of the INSSBI [Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security and Welfare], who attended a meeting with some of the vendors from the Roberto Huembes Market.

There they explained that this new Community Center is similar to those in the districts Jorge Dimitrov and Rene Cisneros, where working children arrive at noon to have lunch, receive help with their school work and practice the sports they like.

Requirements

The representatives of the INSSBI explained that they are already cooperating with various District Executive Committees of the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] of the Eighth Zone, among them that of Ariel Darce. They also tried to seek cooperation from the CDS and vendors at the Roberto Huembes market because "there are working children there who go around with their shoe-shine boxes, or those who do not receive complete attention from their parents because of economic problems, because of work, or simply children who have been abandoned."

They argue that these children run the risk of becoming lazy or delinquent, which the revolutionary regime wants to avoid through preventive centers like this new one.

They said that the 400 children they will accept will have to be from 6 to 14 years of age. At the end of the afternoon, all of them will return to their respective homes to join their parents and relatives.

Finishing Touches and With Personnel Ready

The four buildings of the Community Center are receiving finishing touches such as the electrical installation, finishing the ceiling, and smoothing some of the walls. "Everything will be ready in September," said Mariana and Gioconda.

They stated that besides the two of them they will have a teacher, a nurse to care for the children's health and the administrative personnel.

Several applications were received yesterday at Roberto Huembes for various children to join the Community Center officially.

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CSO:3248/517

NICARAGUA

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT REPORTS ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Aug 85 p 7

[Text] A total of 172 deaths and material damages of up to 130 million cordobas are the result of 2,441 automobile accidents that occurred in the country during the first six-month period of the present year, reported First Lt Mario Rivas, second in command at Managua's Transportation Department, at a press conference.

In talking about the causes of these accidents Rivas pointed out that excessive speed has caused 439 accidents, leaving 42 persons dead and 398 injured. Faulty driving, disregard for traffic signals and drunkenness are other causes of accidents.

Rivas also called on drivers to try to avoid accidents by obeying traffic signals and driving properly. "Driving while drunk constitutes a serious risk that causes deaths and casts many homes into mourning, it also creates orphans," he warned.

Need for Drivers' Education Campaigns

In comparison with the traffic accidents that occurred nationally last year, the second-in-command of Traffic pointed out that these have decreased by up to 73 percent and deaths have decreased by 52 percent. "This does not imply that we should not look for ways of reducing these accidents, on the contrary, it is necessary to carry out educational campaigns using all the communication media," he said.

In this regard he added that during the first six-month period of this year the Transportation Department, along with other sectors, has presented 31 conferences and talks on drivers' education which try to promote a state of mind that will prevent that which he called the aftermath of death.

"The communications media should play a more active part in order to avoid an increase in traffic accidents," he said.

Regarding Fines

In reference to fines, the official said that "on various occasions judgements pronounced against our actions have perhaps been rather severe."

"The truth is that if a fine is imposed, it is because an infraction has been committed. But those affected do have the right to appeal, for which they have recourse to our offices."

He indicated that during the first six-month period of this year 1,713 vehicles in the country were taken out of circulation due to problems with the electrical system, brakes, etc. He also said that 39,759 fines had been imposed. At the press conference First Lt Martin Rivas was accompanied by Second Lt Luis Donaire, chief of the department of Technical Prevision and Drivers' Training.

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NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

SWEDISH DONATION--Corinto--In another gesture of solidarity with Nicaragua, the government of Sweden donated 3,000 tons of fertilizers, 120 tons of cardboard boxes for packaging bananas, and 20 tons of chemical products to the chemical firm ICE located in Leon. The donation was delivered yesterday morning at the port of Corinto by Mr Tomas Bergendal, business manager for the Swedish embassy in this country, and was accepted by the vice minister for foreign cooperation, Jose Angel Buitrago. On making the delivery Mr Bergendal stated: "I am happy to deliver this gift in the name of the government of Sweden. We hope that these articles will help Nicaragua with the situation it confronts at the present time, that it will help with the costs of equipment, fertilizers for agriculture, boxes for the businesses that harvest and package bananas, and accordingly that it will help the Nicaraguan people in confronting the present situation." For his part, comrade Jose Angel Buitrago, vice minister for foreign cooperation, thanked the government of Sweden in the name of the government and the people of Nicaragua and said, "We are sure that this quantity of fertilizers, banana boxes and chemicals will continue to arrive in Nicaragua from Swedish friends. This donation will solve a great many problems and provide answers to the people of Nicaragua. The fertilizers arrive at an opportune time to cover the areas that will be planted with basic grains for the second crop of the year." Present at the delivery ceremony were comrades Carlos Benavente, director for European cooperation, attorney Francisco Martinez, from Corinto's port administration, and engineer Plutarco Anduray, of the regional AGROINRA. [by F. Thomas] [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Aug 85 p 8] 9907.

HUNGARIAN MEDICINES-- The vice minister for technical provisions from MINSA [Ministry of Health], Pablo Coca, received a consignment of medicines valued at \$600,000 donated by the people and the government of the Hungarian People's Republic. During the delivery, Bela Kalauz, first secretary of Hungary's embassy in Managua, stated that the people of Hungary understand the just struggle against the mercenary aggression unleashed by the United States. "In previous occasions our government sent to this brave country clothing, toys and food," he said. The Hungarian diplomat also condemned the latest terrorist activities carried out by mercenaries armed and financed by the Reagan government. "This country has the right to free self-determination, and these acts of vandalism," he added, "should be condemned." Meanwhile,

22 October 1985

Pablo Coca, on receiving the donation, affirmed that the militant solidarity of the people, the progressive and free governments of the world, have made it possible for us to receive medicines valued at up to \$6.07 million during the last 6 months. He indicated that among the principal donors of medicines are first the socialist countries, non-governmental organizations, solidarity committees and multilateral organizations such as UNICEF, OPS [Panamerican Health Organization] and others. Finally, he stated that the gifts of Hungarian medicines are contained in about 3,000 packages containing, among other things, anesthetics, vitamins, antibiotics, antiparasitic medicines and intravenous serums. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Aug 85 p 4] 9907.

MILK PRODUCTION PROJECT--Managua (ANN)--International financing that would permit Nicaragua to acquire about 2,000 purebred Holstein heifers from Canada in 1985 amounts to \$2 million. Luis Barcenias, general director of the Chiltepe Genetic Dairy Project, located in the peninsula of the same name, over 30 kilometers from Managua, affirmed the above. Barcenias added that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is contributing \$1.5 million, while Canada's International Agency for Development will contribute another \$500,000 but in blank credit and with a 20-year grace period. On the other hand, said the director of the Dairy Project, the agreement with the IDB is carried out in accordance with international terms that demand yearly payments in order to maintain credit. Apart from what was said above, continued Barcenias, Canada finances the acquisition of equipment and machinery for the mechanized Chiltepe Project, one of the largest in Central America, worth \$5 million. Another Canadian expression of support for increasing milk production in Nicaragua is the supply of 2,000 head of purebred Holstein cattle, 488 of which have already arrived in the country. The last shipment of 148 heifers was received on 11 August, and on the 25th of this month another 200 head of cattle will arrive. It is estimated that to complete the 2,000 head of cattle more than 10 more shipments must be made. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Aug 85 p 8] 9907

CSO:3248/517

PERU

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND--Jose Carlos Mariategui will travel to Geneva, where he will be the new Peruvian ambassador to Switzerland. [Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 7 Oct 85 PY]

FRENCH CAMERAMAN REPORTS CONFISCATION--Ayacucho, 7 Oct (AFP)--A court spokesman reported here today that French cameraman Pierre Boihin, of Paris Television Channel 13, has reported to the provincial court in Ayacucho, in the southeastern, Andean region, that an alleged Army officer confiscated the film he had taken. Boihin, who leveled his charge before prosecutor Elvia Barrios on 5 October, said that on Wednesday, 4 October [as received] he filmed the community life of the townspeople in Colca, 15 km south of the Ayacucho Province of Cancagallo. He also said that in the same place he filmed the consequences of the terrorist attacks against the people. According to the note the French cameraman submitted to the court in Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, the film was confiscated by an alleged Army officer. The court spokesman did not report the circumstances nor the place where the film was seized. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1419 GMT 7 Oct 85]

MIRAGE LOSES MISSILE IN FLIGHT--Lima, 4 Oct (AFP)--One of the Peruvian Air Force's Mirage fighter planes lost a missile during a training flight near the city of Chiclayo, 752 km north of Lima, according to a report from aeronautics authorities. The incident occurred on 1 Oct, and had 200 police and Armed Forces members conducting a thorough search for the missile, which has still not been found. The same sources said that it could be lost in the Pacific Ocean. The Peruvian Air Force has made no comments about the incident nor explained what kind of missile was lost by the plane which belongs to the 6th Air Force Wing based in Chiclayo. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1858 GMT 4 Oct 85]

CSO: 3348/22

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

COLOMBIA-LINK DRUG CONCERNS--Kingstown, Mon (CANA)--Prime Minister James Mitchell has assured St Vincent's drug abuse task force that establishment of trade links with Colombia will not result in the island being used as a transshipment point for illegal drugs from Bogota. Mr Mitchell followed up a trade and investment mission to Colombia last month announcing establishment of trade links between the countries. Several Vincentians have expressed fears that Colombians would try to use the opportunity to smuggle cocaine and marijuana--two of their biggest exports--into St Vincent for reshipment to the United States. But Mr Mitchell told the drug abuse task force that the two governments were concerned about the drugs problems and were taking every precaution to ensure that beneficial trade links between the countries would not be affected by illegal drug trafficking. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 85 p 5]

CSO: 3298/13

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DONALDSON SPURNS PNM POST, CITES INTRAPARTY 'STRUGGLE'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Francis Joseph]

[Text]

MR. JOHN DONALDSON, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, said yesterday afternoon that he wanted no party post in the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), because of what he described as a struggle within the party for posts at high level.

Speaking at the Tunapuna Constituency's 25th annual conference at El Dorado Girls' Camp, Mr. Donaldson told constituents that they would be surprised to hear what party members were saying about party members.

He said the same thing people were asking about the Government: where the money gone, "was the same thing party members were asking about others in the party.

"Whether it is chairman, political leader, deputy political leader, women's league, you name it, every area you turn, you hear the most awful things being said about party members by party members.

"That is what I said in La Brea in 1982, and what I want to say to the membership here, I would not go up for elected office within the party for that very procedure of getting elected is being used to destroy the fabric of the party.

"Where you were last year? Where you were the year before etc etc. When I was doing ABCDEFG, what were you doing? He belongs to the DLP and so on. Today I am still of that view."

TAKE CARE OF BASE

Mr. Donaldson said there was too much concentration at the top, everybody watching what the leaders were doing. He told Tunapuna constituents that they must take care of the base of the pyramid.

In that way, he said, the leadership of the party would be saved and there would be real membership.

The Minister said he noticed that other political parties and other groups were beginning to mobilise from the top by choosing their leaders before their memberships.

"We may laugh at it. We may also find ourselves cursed into implementing it. The PNM was the opposite. I said that since 1939, men and women of this country, walking, in those days no taxi, they had to walk, the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago mobilising people."

Mr. Donaldson said that the PNM had a strong foundation due to the hard work of early members. This was what mobilisation was about and this was the PNM's goal today.

The Minister said that the PNM was not a fly-by-night organisation. Much of the work began in the 1939-40 period and the same people were the

ones around in 1956 when the PNM got into power.

Speaking on the theme "Mobilisation for Preservation", Mr. Donaldson said there must be mobilisation in Trinidad and Tobago and not abroad.

Referring to the recent Grenada accord by members of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Mr. Donaldson said the only accord the PNM will have is the accord of Port-of-Spain, Arima, Toco, not Moscow, but Scarborough, Tunapuna, Plymouth.

"If two years ago political parties went up to Bishop in Grenada to meet and plan their strategies, you ain't think the newspapers would be glad for that?

"How they glad today? They do not operate on the basis of principle, but expediency. They think it is good to go somewhere to talk about Trinidad and Tobago's political activities. You will tell me you will leave a free and open country like ours to go elsewhere?

HIDING FROM PRESS

"I will tell you the reason why they went. To hide from the Press, so they are not under the scrutiny of the Trinidad and Tobago Press. And I never heard the Press rejoicing when somebody hide his business from them.

"In this instance, the people of Trinidad and Tobago has been left in the darkness. You know we fight for the freedom and independence, and now they running overseas and playing careless with it.

"I don't know who had a gun over whose head when these accords were put into place. I know nobody can say they point a gun at my head for what I say now. We don't know what happening overseas," the Minister added.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS' SPEECHES ADDRESS VARIOUS ISSUES; PROTEST NOTED

Comment on Debts

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

NO PNM government, led by me, will subscribe to the notion that we borrow people's money and decide that we are not paying. So said Prime Minister George Chambers at Sangre Grande on Sunday.

Referring to what he described as "loose talk," Chambers said to the PNM Women's League: "I have seen on TTT two or three people advocating a unilateral declaration of non-repayment of debt by developing countries. Lest that be construed by anybody, I wish to make it absolutely clear that no PNM government led by me will ever subscribe to the notion that we borrow people's money and decide that we are not paying."

Chambers said that the total debt of the developing countries today is \$865 billion U.S. Of that figure, he said, \$525 billion came from international commercial banks. "Now where do banks get money? And what happen to the international financial system if people who owing \$525 billion U.S. to the international commercial banks say they not paying back? Total collapse!"

He stressed that the debt crisis related to Trinidad and Tobago in "a positive way." "Trinidad and Tobago no longer is eligible for concessionary and even non-concessionary financing from international financial institutions. The result

of that is that in terms of financing your own development, at least on current account, you must not be in deficit."

Chambers said that Trinidad and Tobago, in terms of credit worthiness, ranks number one in Latin America and 40 in the world, and that this information came from an institutional investable copy, "which," he added, "I don't write, Jacelon doesn't write, Donaldson doesn't write, Padmore doesn't write and Manning doesn't even read."

Referring to those people "who speak glibly about financial mismanagement," he said, "I assume they must be take that from their records. We have heard that before. But I don't have to satisfy them, I have to satisfy the people of Trinidad and Tobago."

He cited another head of government who went on public record as saying that for every one dollar dropped in the barrel of oil, his country lost \$525 million U.S. directly. He said that the same head of government is on record as saying that every time he rolls over his debt and he has to pay one per cent more interest, he has to find \$300 million U.S.

But, said Chambers, the debt crisis was important to Trinidad and Tobago because more and more it had to go out there and find

money for capital expenditure.

"For us, in Trinidad and Tobago, we have a vital interest on the question of the debt crisis, because more and more we have to go out there and find money for capital expenditure in Trinidad and Tobago. And every time oil prices move by a dollar we lose \$1,000 million—that is \$1,000 million less for hospitals, for roads, for schools, for the utilities, for improving the quality of life."

Said Chambers: "The developing world has been forced into a situation where it is squeezing as much as it can from its nationals, we are aware of the measures we have had to face to cope with our reduced revenue and the inevitability of adjustment, but then we don't have cause to go outside there."

Chambers said that this difficulty for the developing world was coming at a time when most places were moving away from militarism to the democratic form. "So you elect a government and that government is facing increased protectionism, decline in revenue and in interest rates."

"The powers that be must understand that we cannot postpone much longer, sitting down and working for the parameters of a just and new international economic order," said Chambers.

Describing the state

of the developing world, he said that it was facing increased protectionism.

"We face protectionism and when I say so I am not only talking about oil and steel, it is all over. What are we supposed to do? Are we supposed to cut our own political throats? Obviously not."

Chambers said that the alternatives were "painfully obvious." "If this part of the world is seen to be moving away from militarism and to democracy, and trial democracy can't deliver the goods well, then the powers that be must make up their minds. You want democracy or you don't!"

He also said that some of the money the developing world was borrowing would have been the excess money from oil exporting countries that were investing.

So gentlemen (I say gentlemen because I am not talking to you, I'm talking to the powers that be), make your mind up. We simply cannot go on like this."

Corruption Issue

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

PRIME Minister George Chambers has repeated his call to anyone with "hard evidence of an impeachable record of corrupt practices," to forward it to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Speaking at his Meet-The-Party Tour of the Barataria Constituency last night, the Prime Minister, in his capacity as Political Leader of the People's National Movement, responded to a statement by a party group about what he (Chambers) described as "the possibility of corrupt

practices" in the award of contracts at the local government level.

"Contrary to what you see reported occasionally in all sorts of printed matter appearing in Trinidad and Tobago, that the Government should do this and the Government should do that, the fact of the matter remains that in Trinidad and Tobago, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has nothing to do with the award of contracts. Absolutely nothing to do with the award of contracts."

He said the Central Tenders Board or Tenders Committee or Ministerial Tenders Committee, or Permanent Secretaries at certain levels, deal with that. "We do not deal with the award of contracts. And to the extent that one has any evidence, hard evidence of an impeachable record of corrupt practices, this can be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions who, under the Constitution, is the person required to institute or discontinue criminal proceedings in Trinidad."

Chambers also responded to the comment from another party group of the possibility that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was perhaps over-ambitious in their planning during the boom years.

"Well, I am not sure that I agree that we were over-ambitious. What I would be prepared to admit and what I have stated in the 1982 Budget is that in many instances, we were doing too much at the same time."

"Because it was in response to the call of the population that we overlooked so much in the boom years. Whether we were doing too much at the same time, you and I have to judge with others. We had shortages, we had increased costs, we had costs over-run and all sorts of things which we have not been ashamed or afraid to state publicly."

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Sep 85 p 1

[Excerpts]

ARIMA:

A STORM of protest by hundreds of parents and children of the Arima Girls' RC School shouting "no shift, new school" and "no school, no vote" dampened the atmosphere at the unveiling ceremony of the restored Arima Dial yesterday.

Hundreds of burgesses who attended the ceremony were surprised at the vehemence of the protest.

Prime Minister George Chambers arrived promptly at 4.30 p.m. for the ceremony. Seemingly unperturbed as he moved through the flanks of the cadet force on parade, it was clear, however, that the show of dissatisfaction affected the spirit of speakers Ashton Ford, Parliamentary Representative for the area, Mayor Leroy Morris and chairman of the proceedings, Town Clerk Miss Sierma Forde.

Their voices could hardly be heard above the cacophony of the protesting voices of placard bearing demonstrators calling for a new school, a new hospital and water for Arima.

Both Mr Ford and Mayor Morris said they had hoped that better sense would have prevailed, having made efforts over the past few days to persuade organisers and planners of the protest from demonstrating.

Mr Ford stated that he was disappointed at the display particularly after his efforts to reach a solution with teachers and others concerned.

In an aside to the Press, he said the media had not helped in the situation as he had explained in a release the circumstances leading to the protest and plans for an early solution.

Mayor Morris said he sympathised with the cause of the demonstrators and he had no quarrel with the freedom of the people. He included the demonstrators in his welcome.

The demonstrators later moved to the Town Hall to extend their protest when the Prime Minister went to open an exhibition of historic paintings of the Borough.

CSO: 3298/1034

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

STRIKE ON LABOR FRONT, OTHER DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

OWTU-Labour Congress Row

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 85 p 5

[Text]

OILFIELDS Workers
Trade Union leader George Weekes said that the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress was not really interested in labour unity.

Weekes rapped the Labour Congress for not implementing a Labour Day commitment to call a one-day general strike in solidarity with sugar workers. Said he: "All that was needed was to set a day for this action which would have effectively sent the message to all employers in the country," Weekes said. "But what do we see. There was a decision to hold talks with Caroni Ltd to have the appeal before the High Court withdrawn."

Weekes made the points during the presidential address at the

46th annual Conference of Delegates of the union held at the Palm's Club in San Fernando on Saturday evening. The conference continues today and tomorrow at the same venue.

Weekes said that the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) had sent several letters to Congress seeking to initiate unity talks. He said these letters were not acknowledged until the CPTU sent a final letter to the Congress outlining all the letters sent and the dates on which they were despatched. He said the Congress responded by arranging a meeting.

Weekes said that the CPTU had never refused to hold unity talks. He said the CPTU was always open and willing to meet, pointing out that unity was important to the labour movement at this time.

NUGFW Leadership Question

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] SENATOR Nathaniel Crichlow is giving up his post as President General of the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW). He will not stand for re-election when the union holds elections in October.

When nominations were posted recently, Senator Crichlow, who has held the union's top post since 1976, said he would not accept nomination. He gave no reason for his decision.

The man likely to take over as leader of NUGFW is Mr Leslie Clifford who is the first Deputy President General of the union. He is the unopposed candidate for the position.

NUGFW nomination are scheduled to take place during the union's Fifth Triennial National Convention in mid-October.

Venue will be the union's headquarters on Henry Street, Port-of-Spain and dates for the convention are October 11, 13, 19 and 20.

Mr Crichlow, a veteran trade unionist for more than 20 years, has headed NUGFW since its formation. Prior to that he was head of the National Union of Government Employees, the organisation which emerged with the Federated Workers Trade Union in 1976 to form NUGFW.

The union has called an emergency meeting of its national General Council to discuss the convention. The meeting takes place from 4.30 p.m. next Wednesday at NUGFW headquarters.

Weekes Calls for Unity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 85 p 14

[Text] San Fernando--The call in this country, in the Caribbean and internationally is one of unity, according to Mr George Weekes, President General of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union.

Mr Weekes, addressing the union's 46th annual conference of delegates last Saturday at Palms Club, told delegates if they did not fight for unity but wanted wages, security, safety and health provisions they were fooling themselves.

He said: "This 46th annual conference of delegates is meeting at [word indistinct] most disturbing, if not the most terrifying time in the history of workers. Serious people only have to turn on the radio, TV, listen attentively, analyse seriously what you read in the print media also, the daily newspapers, and you cannot help but come to the conclusion that the enemy, the worst enemy that mankind has ever faced--imperialism."

Crisis

Mr Weekes said the struggle for unity was the number one priority for survival.

He referred to the dispute between Caroni Limited and All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union over withdrawal of the appeal by the company against the Industrial Court's judgment. He said since June 19, the Trades Union Congress took a decision to stage a one-day strike to protest the company's refusal to withdraw the appeal, but there was only talks going on without any action.

The union's General Council, in its report for the past year, said that it was sure that delegates to the 46th annual conference would be conscious of the profound social, economic and political crisis in this country.

"Whether it be on the level of the problem of vagrants, or of the tragic consequences of widespread drug abuse, or the dread of AIDS, or of rape, murder, suicide and other forms of violence, or retrenchment, hunger and poverty.

NO ESCAPE

"Or of the total break-down of the education system, the extortionist health system, the aimless drift of the nation's youths, the attack on trade unions and on other democratic institutions."

The General Council's report said: "As working people and as nationals we are affected. And unlike the elite who during the boom years stashed away millions of dollars in banks and businesses abroad, and who will escape the crisis by following their money to Miami, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Panama, Canada, London or Geneva, we the working people have no money to follow, no place to escape to."

"We therefore are the real patriots who must of necessity

struggle for the resolution to the crisis."

The report referred to policies calling for massive retrenchment, the reduction of wage levels, emasculation and eventual destruction of trade unions, removal of social welfare programmes (health, education, subsidies on basic goods and public utilities), devaluation and the denationalisation (privatisation) of industry.

It was stated that such policies ensured that the banks got massive profits through mounting repayments on the loans.

JPRS-LAM-85-089

22 October 1985

Freeze on Union Funds

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 85 p 3

[Article by Irma Rambaran]

[Text] **THE rift between Transport and Industrial Workers Union president Clive Nunez and his executive has forced the National Commercial Bank to freeze the union's current account and thrown the financial status of the union into confusion.**

The freeze by NCB, one of four banks with which the union conducts its business (the others are the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Workers' Bank and another branch of NCB), stems from the dispute over just who is the president of the union.

Nunez claims he is still the president because he withdrew his resignation, while the executive claims that his resignation was accepted by the Central Committee and still stands.

According to union executive Simeon Taitt, the union informed the bank of Nunez's resignation which was necessary if their financial transactions were to be honoured by the bank.

However, after Nunez withdrew his resignation, he wrote to the bank on August 29, informing NCB that he was still the president and that no transactions should be honoured without his signature.

The bank wrote to Carlos Brisbane, the union's general secretary and Nunez on September 6, stating that because of the uncertainty of whose signature should be on the account, there was no choice but to desist from honouring any transactions with the union until the matter is settled.

Taitt said the union had taken steps to resolve the situation but in the meantime workers were suffering because the account is used to pay wages and petty cash allowances. He said grievance officers from Tobago who are reimbursed for their travelling were also affected by the freeze.

"He is trying to grind the union to a halt," Taitt said of Nunez. Supporters of Nunez have been occupying the union's headquarters at Laventille over the past few weeks but Taitt said work was being conducted "as usual."

Strike at TRINTOC

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] **WORKERS at state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company yesterday staged a work stoppage at the company's Point Fortin refinery.**

A spokesman at the Trintoc Point Fortin refinery told the EXPRESS that the stoppage had been confined to only a few departments.

The spokesman identified these departments as the workshop area, the waterfront and the production department. The work stoppage did not affect the company's operations significantly yesterday.

The workers said they were protesting the delay by Trintoc in concluding negotiations for a new wage contract with the Oilfields Workers Trade Union.

But, reports indicated that the stoppage was

in support of workers at the Point Fortin-based Caribbean Tyre Company where that company's management had closed down the factory on Thursday. The company said on Thursday that protesting workers had invaded their offices, threatening and abusing workers.

The company alleged that one worker was barricaded in the canteen and held hostage while others were chased around the company. The Point Fortin Police were called out on Thursday to restore order.

The tyre company said it was standing by for a meeting with the OWTU and the Ministry of Labour aimed at resolving the issue. The closure affected some 450 workers. Since September 2, 1985, the workers have been protesting the retrenchment of 120 colleagues and the alleged arbitrary introduction of a shift roster at the factory.

In response to the company's decision to close down the plant, the OWTU yesterday called a rally at the company's gates for this morning to discuss the issue.

Threat to Tire Plant

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 16 Sep 85 p 40

[Text]

OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union vice-president Errol McLeod, in a mood of defiance, warned that if the Caribbean Tyre Company did not open its gates by Wednesday morning, the workers of Point Fortin would march to the plant and break down the gates themselves.

McLeod urged all workers, their wives and children, to join in what he described as "the struggle to preserve the jobs of our comrades." McLeod addressed a rally of solidarity for the workers of the tyre plant at the Market Square in Point Fortin on Saturday. The workers had earlier gathered at the tyre plant gates and marched to the square. The tyre plant workers were joined by hundreds of workers from other companies.

McLeod said that if the company did not open the gates by 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning the workers were determined to do the job themselves. He said that all the retrenched workers should be present on Wednesday as well since they too would go into the plant and claim their jobs. McLeod said: "Let me give you a warning now that the workers are taking steps to protect their bread and butter and anybody touching one member of the working class movement would have to kill the entire membership of the working class movement."

McLeod told the rally that the workers of Trinmar served notice to him that they too would begin a work stoppage today. He said the

Trinmar workers were disturbed that after 23 meetings, the company had failed to reach an agreement on a new wage contract.

Last Friday, the workers of Trintoc, Point Fortin, staged a work stoppage which affected three departments, the production, waterfront and tool workshop.

McLeod said that Caribbean Tyre Company has intentions to retrench some 300 workers, pointing out that if this was done Point Fortin would assume the shape of a "ghost town" in much the same way as it was in 1968. Last Thursday, the company closed the plant, claiming that this was necessary in order to protect the non-striking workers and the plant.

The company charged that protecting workers had invaded the offices, hurling abuses and threatening non-striking employees. The company said the closure would have been indefinite, noting it was standing by for emergency talks with the Ministry of Labour to resolve the issue.

But, the workers denied the company's charges of threats and abuses to non-striking employees. The workers denied that they had damaged company property. On the other hand, the workers claimed that the company had locked in some 13 workers on its premises.

Yesterday, McLeod invited all trade union leaders to join with the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) in protesting the delay in approving the Retrenchment Bill at the Senate meeting tomorrow.

'Menace' of Leftist Unions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Sep 85 p 8

[Editorial: "Reasons for Unrest"]

[Text]

PERHAPS, at last, Mr. Chambers and his Government will come to realise the menace which Marxist ideology presents to the vital interests of our country, and come out strongly against it.

Where the Prime Minister has recently led a tour to the Far East and Europe seeking to generate foreign capital investment in Trinidad and Tobago, the leaders of a Leftist trade union are again doing their utmost to create industrial unrest and whip up popular hatred for overseas interests operating in our country.

We think it is now clearly the responsibility of the Government to call upon workers to decide one way or the other — whether they are prepared to co-operate with efforts to readjust the economy and place it on the road to stable long-term growth so that all may benefit or whether they prefer to be used as pawns in the endless revolutionary games of Marxist trade unionists.

DESTRUCTION

In the dynamics of developing an open economy such as ours, there can be no reconciliation between these two forces; the one is totally opposed to the other and, having regard to the present crucial state of our economic affairs, we believe the time has come for those at the helm to clearly delineate the dangers and prescribe the proper guidelines for the many who may be easily misled.

There should by now be no delusion as to the real motive behind the escalating industrial unrest at Metal Box, Caribbean Packaging Industries and the Caribbean Tyre Company, and the rumblings at Trintoc.

The workers in all these four companies are represented by the same union, and the lawlessness, violence and terrorism which have marked the situation at the first three in varying degrees cannot be considered as co-incidental; indeed they should have been expected as fitting into the well-established pattern of this radical trade union.

No one should also take as simple stupidity or lack of economic wisdom the adamant refusal of the union's leaders to consider the serious difficulties of these companies in the context of the economic downturn and the need to implement strategies for their survival and recovery.

Marxist ideology makes them impervious to this kind of argument; they can see the issues only in terms of a class conflict between the employer and the worker, another opportunity for them to advance the destruction of a system which they regard as exploitive and doomed to be replaced by a socialist utopia in which the entire productive machinery is owned and controlled by the State.

For this reason, it would be foolish for anyone to regard the problems at Metal Box, Caribbean Packaging and Caribbean Tyre as simple industrial disputes.

For example, a systematic campaign of terrorism has made it almost impossible for Caribbean Packaging to get their boxes and cases out of their Mount Hope plant. Officials of the company tell us that, in spite of the strike by some of their workers, they have an estimated \$2 million in boxes piled up at the plant but are unable to supply their customers because of threats to drivers coming for deliveries, damage to vehicles and the lawless situation existing at the entrance.

Tyres have been slashed, gas tanks have been polluted and windscreens smashed, according to CPI officials. Also, drivers of client companies now refuse to come to the plant because of threats.

One CPI contractor whose trucks have been consistently damaged has now resorted to using a container to get out the boxes.

As a result of all this, many of CPI customers, who represent a large section of the market, must now get their cardboard boxes and cases by importing them from abroad — an unnecessary drain in foreign exchange.

On Thursday last week, Caribbean Tyre had to close down their Point Fortin plant in the face of violent protests by some workers. Company officials explained that they had no choice but to cease operations in the interest of safety and also to protect those who wanted to work and the company's property.

THREATENING

Instead of helping these three companies to survive a difficult period, the action taken by the union will serve only to seriously worsen their situation, if not hasten their demise.

As we have said before, this kind of disruptive, ideologically-motivated trade unionism strikes at the vital economic interests of our country since it must act as a deterrent factor in current efforts to woo capital investment from abroad.

Mr. Chambers and his Government may be justifiably concerned with racism in South Africa and religious wars of the Middle East, but the menace of an alien ideology is disturbingly real at home, threatening to undermine the peace of our society and all their efforts at development.

They must have the courage and commitment to the national good to come out and oppose it. For the love of freedom and our country, this newspaper has never been afraid to do so.

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Sep 85 p 3

[Text]

PRESIDENT General of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, George Weekes, has warned the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) that the industrial relations situation in the company's operations was fast approaching a crucial stage.

Weekes told Trintoc's managing director Wally James that the former employees of Texaco Trinidad Inc., had not received a wage increase since January, 1983, while the "old Trintoc" workers had not received an increase since August, 1983.

Both the union and the company will resume negotiations today for a three-year industrial agreement covering all the hourly and weekly-rated employees. The agreement will cover all the former Texaco employees as well as those of Trintoc Pt Fortin and Penal.

Said Weekes: "No one should therefore be surprised at the fact that disappointment leading to dissatisfaction is building up throughout our Trintoc operations.

The burning question among workers is, why is Trintoc delaying?" Weekes said that the union was aware of the problems associated with the merger of the two operations and the complexities of the negotiations. But, he said, most of these complexities had been ironed out.

Said Weekes: "Yet Trintoc refuses to seriously negotiate the question of wages." Weekes said that Trinidad Tesoro had made a partial settlement in wages to its workers.

Back pay on this partial settlement was paid out last week. Weekes said that the new Trintoc workers deserved "some economic relief." He said it was well known that Texaco had left some \$6.6 million representing 10 per cent of the payroll for the workers when that company left these shores.

Union, Opposition Unity

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Heather Hollingsworth]

[Text]

TRADE unions and the Opposition are united in their support of the Retrenchment and Severance Benefits Bill in its original form.

This consensus emerged from a meeting held between the Group of Concerned Trade Unions, Leader of the Opposition Basdeo Panday, and Opposition senators yesterday.

After the meeting, most of the trade union leaders present moved over to the Red House to picket the Senate and make their demands felt for an unaltered bill.

The meeting had been called to address the concerns of trade unions over proposed amendments to the bill, as well the "contradictory" position that certain Opposition senators "appeared" to be taking in relation to the bill in discussions in the Senate.

In addition to the nine trade unions and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions at the meeting, Panday reported that Labour Congress secretary Carl Tull, via a telephone conversation, also gave his organisation's support to the call for not tampering with the bill.

Speaking on behalf of the trade unions after the meeting, Errol McLeod, first vice-president of the OWTU, said "those senators whose statements in the Senate were interpreted to mean that they were taking positions contrary to the positions adopted by the Opposition on Section 24 of the bill would make new statements to clarify their positions."

In relation to the amendments proposed by the Government, which amongst other things would allow payment of six weeks' immediate pay to workers retrenched by a company with registered pension plans, McLeod said that the Opposition and the trade unions were united in their refusal to accept any amendments which would "water down or emasculate the bill."

The amendments, it was suggested, "place workers in a worse position than they would have been in, had the bill not come about."

Trade unions also feel that if the bill were to be accepted in its amended form, then a precedent would have been established which would eventually make "for the eradication of many existing benefits" currently enjoyed by workers.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LABOR UNREST STIRS UNIONS, EMPLOYERS, GOVERNMENT

Employers' Statement

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Sep 85, p 3

[Text] **THE EMPLOYERS' Consultative Association** has stated that acts of violence by irresponsible elements of certain trade unions has assumed national proportions and is threatening to destabilise the country.

THE ECA met in emergency session yesterday at the Hilton Hotel and among decisions taken was that Government assistance should be sought to enforce the rule of law.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ECA stated that the business community was appealing for a return to law and order in industrial relations.

While the meeting was in progress some union members were picketing outside the hotel.

The ECA statement yesterday reads:

LEADERS of the business community, convened by the Employers' Consultative Association, met in an emergency session today to discuss the deteriorating industrial relations climate in the country. Employers are being placed in a state of virtual siege as acts of violence by irresponsible elements of certain unions are increasingly becoming a feature of industrial action. The situation has now escalated beyond the issue of industrial relations and has assumed national proportions and threatens to destabilise the country.

Among decisions taken at the meeting were:

1. That Government assistance should be sought to enforce the rule of law.
2. That Employers should make themselves aware of the remedies available to them under the law and to take the steps, within the law, to protect their employees and their property.

Acts of violence and vandalism put workers at risk, both through arrest and loss of their jobs — inciters risk nothing!

Both the business community and Gov-

ernment are expending time, energy and money to attract local and foreign investment in order to create new job opportunities and maintain existing ones. But which new investor will risk being subjected to the personal danger and vilification which threatens existing employers?

Workers must be made aware of the consequences of their actions: **JOBS DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF A COMPANY TO STAY IN BUSINESS.**

WORKERS IN JEOPARDY

Violence and vandalism, illegal industrial action, threats of bodily harm, damage this ability — in these precarious times such damage could be fatal. The inciters of violence do their jobs — **WORKERS LOSE THEIRS!!** It is the very workers, whose interests are supposed to be protected by the unions, who are in jeopardy if they allow themselves to be misled.

The business community feels that every worker should make himself aware of what constitutes legal industrial action and the penalties for breach.

Finally, the business community calls for good sense and sober thinking by the responsible citizens of our country and the realisation that business provides the jobs which create the workers which form the unions.

In the national interest, which represents the interest of each and every citizen, the business community appeals for a return to law and order in industrial relations.

While the meeting was in progress a car belonging to one of the persons in attendance was severely damaged by picketing union members.

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 Sep 85 p 47

[Advertisement]

[Text]

Much has been said recently about violence in industrial disputes. Significantly all those statements have come from one group in the society. Employers, representatives of employers' organisations and the editorial writers of newspapers that are owned and controlled by big business.

The OWTU believes it is necessary to clarify once and for all this issue of violence in industrial relations. Firstly, we wish to state that the Union does not encourage, organise or condone acts of violence. Indeed, as responsible employers who have had a long history of relations would know, the OWTU has always conducted its industrial struggles in a militant but disciplined fashion.

Secondly, we wish to state what is an obvious fact that is that there are two sides to every issue. But the press in particular has had a long history of carrying only one side of the story — the employers side. And this is because the press is owned and controlled by the very employers the union and the workers are in conflict with.

For example, the Chairman of Metal Box Limited is also Chairman of the Guardian newspapers so it is not surprising what side the Guardian would defend. Another example. The Guardian is one of the companies in the Alstons-Mc Eneaney group so that when there is a dispute Mc Eneaney, Amalgamated Industries, or any of the other subsidiaries of the conglomerate the paper is "Obligated" to defend the common interests of sister companies. Final example. The Express directors include the Chairman of Angustoras and a director of Neal and Massey Holdings Limited two of the other big local companies, indicating that Express policy is big business policy.

We could cite other examples but suffice it to say that the daily press is commercial i.e. it depends on advertising for much of its revenue. And the advertisers are big business. Anti big business stories means no advertising and that the press will not risk.

Thirdly, we must identify who are really violent, and what acts can be defined as violent. As far as the OWTU is concerned it is the employers who are violent. Let us explain by some examples.

When a worker is retrenched after working for 5, 10, 15 or 20 years that is industrial violence. Such violence becomes worse when the worker is non-unionised as 50% of all workers are in this country. The non-unionised worker is often retrenched without receiving a cent compensation for their years of service. But today even unionised workers are getting their blows as companies — big companies like the Mc Eneaney-Alstons conglomerate — are now retrenching and only paying 1/3 of the severance pay that the workers should legally receive under the collective agreement.

Is it not violent to place an able-bodied, skilled, competent man or women on the streets? Many of these retrenched workers will not find gainful employment again. How can they when today 60,000 people or 14% of the labour force is unemployed. How will these unemployed support their families, pay the rent, buy food, send children to school. What will the 19,000 youths who leave school annually do? There are few job vacancies and those that exist require experience, which the school leaver does not have and can't obtain. He or she will never get a job.

But the employer is concerned only with

maintaining profit margins. Nobody says that without the labour of its employees a company cannot make profits. The company's assets, its accumulated profits over the years, the shareholder's dividends, the tax (if any) paid to the Government, the bonuses and perks received by Managers and Directors — all that comes from the workers' labour.

How else but violent can we describe a society which because of unemployment, a lack of national direction, a frustration of grass-root democracy, and poverty and hardships in the midst of tremendous wealth, has created drug addicts, vagrants and prostitutes of so many of our youths. Who is really violent — the man who steals to pay his rent and buy food for his family or the employer who has retrenched the same man thereby forcing him to steal as a livelihood?

Let us examine the struggles of workers on picket lines.

At some stage in all these struggles the employer publicly and/or in the Courts has alleged the workers with being violent. What is the reality?

In each of the cases the employer has been hell bent on provocation and confrontation. Take the Cedros workers, for example. A nut-cracker receives \$29.32 per 2,5000 nuts cracked, Kernel extractor gets \$17.36 per 1,250 nuts extracted. These are 1982 wages rates. The Union began negotiating with the Cedros Planters Association (CPA), representing some 6 estates in December 1982 for a wage increase. In 1983 while the negotiations were in the Industrial Court the CPA dissolved and the Union was forced to seek recognition for each individual estate. This process was not completed until November 1984. Negotiations then had to begin

ALL OVER AGAIN with the individual estate owners. When the workers went on a work to rule two estates locked them out on January 19th 1985. These workers have not received a wage increase since 1982. They refused an increase of 20% over three (3) years. For that they were locked out. The negotiations are once again in the Industrial Court. The Cedros workers have demonstrated the patience of Job in the face of extreme provocation and economic violence.

At Metal Box the negotiations had been suspended — at the Company's request and with the Union's agreement in mid 1984 in order for certain investigations to be conducted by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce into the issue of foreign competition to Metal Box in the supply of Metal cans for the local market.

The Management of this British owned transnational corporation demonstrated bad faith and utter disregard for the sacrifices made by the workers who had "held strain" for some twenty-two (22) months while the Union assisted the Company in eliminating foreign competition thereby making the Company viable. Metal Box refused to make a settlement comparable to that arrived at with Lever Brothers, stubbornly insisting on a wage offer of 12% tied with no consolidation of existing COLA before the percentage increase; the abolishment of COLA, the reduction by 50% of the existing vacation and sick-leave; and the weakening of the existing severance pay clause.

At CPI the Union and Company settled the monthly paid negotiations at 22% the same as that obtained for the Lever Brothers monthly paid workers. CPI in a most provocative action reduced their wage offer from 22% to 0%. Then after protest by the Union and demonstra-

tions of dissatisfaction by the workers the Company moved from 0% to 10% which is tied to the roll back of existing benefits.

Dunlop has consistently inflicted industrial and economic violence. They made super profits from a monopoly market, they have enjoyed a fifteen (15) year tax free holiday and other incentives, they have run an unhealthy and unsafe plant causing incalculable losses to their workers through injury etc.

When the Union was informed of the retrenchment in July of this year the Executive met with Company Officials. No agreement was arrived at and the Union reported the matter to the Ministry of Labour. The Ministry sought to have a meeting with both parties but the Company was, we believe conveniently, out of communication so the Ministry was unable to convene the meeting. The Ministry position was however that the Company should hold its hand on effecting the retrenchment until conciliation took place. The Union agreed as this was the most reasonable position to adopt.

The company paid no heed and retrenched a number of workers on Independence Day 31st August an affront to our country's dignity and sovereignty. The workers justifiably then began to protest. At a meeting last week at the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry proposed that the situation return to the status quo before 31st August i.e. the Company withdraw the retrenchment, the workers return to normal work and the matter proceed under the Ministry's conciliation. The Company again refused while the Union readily agreed.

Employers are now running to the Courts to get injunctions against workers. CPI in 1981, T & TEC in 1982, Bermudez in 1973, Lever in 1984, Amlagamated, Dunlop and CPI in 1985. In fact the employers are using injunctions to whittle away the existing rights of workers. To restrict workers to "groups of ten" is a blow to the very concept of trade unionism which is the combination of workers.

Additionally by obtaining an injunction against 2 workers which enjoins all the workers is a mechanism that has enabled employers to short-cut the expensive and time consuming procedure of filing injunctions on each individual workers. Thus 2 injunctions can be filed affecting 3,000 workers where it would have been impossible to file 3,000 injunctions. Once again the employers have come out on top.

The police have a role to play but they must be impartial. Heavily armed "tactical" police in full riot gear is not impartial policing. Intimidation and harassment of workers and being at the beck and call of a company is not the role of the police. The OWTU has never sought confrontation with the police. We have held discussions with senior officers on spot and with the Acting Commissioner to ensure that no onward incident arises.

Finally the trade union movement has always been a movement for peace. The Union is a mechanism for dialogue with employers. If employers are hell bent on destroying trade unions as implied by the latest utterances from the ECA re decertification of OWTU, then an uncontrollable explosion will result. The blame for that will be solely on the employers.

There can be no meaningful peace without bread and justice. We call on employers to change their confrontation posture, give the workers bread and justice so there can be peace. We in the OWTU will continue to work to that end.

Union Unity

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 Sep 85 p 7

[Text]

BANK and General Workers Union has declared its support for the struggle of workers of the Caribbean Tyre Co.

Representatives of the union indicated this support at several rallies held in Point Fortin and have also shown proof of this support with gifts of food supplies to the striking workers.

In particular, the members from several branches of BGWU in the Point Fortin area, including National Commercial Bank and the Trinidad Co-operative Bank have shown solidarity with the workers.

The union condemned the management of the Caribbean Tyre Company for "unilaterally violating the Collective Agreement, with respect to shift work" and it also voiced its distress over the retrenchment.

The union also agreed with the Oilfields Workers Trade Union's call for nationalisation of the tyre company, stating:

"There are no valid economic reasons why the company cannot be locally owned and controlled."

Government-Ordered Probe

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers has ordered National Security Minister Overand Padmore, Attorney General Russell Martineau and Labour Minister John Donaldson to meet with the Employers' Consultative Association (ECA) to discuss a report from the ECA dealing with violence on the picket line.

Chambers had requested that the results of that meeting be communicated to him as soon as it was concluded.

The Prime Minister made the disclosure in an address to the San Fernando East Constituency of the ruling Peoples National Movement during the Meet-the-Party tour at the Lions Civic Centre in San Fernando on Saturday.

Chambers appealed to the labour movement for "good sense to prevail" saying that "it is no point being so militant that instead of getting better wages you succeed in getting people to lose their jobs." He advised workers "to use your head."

Chambers said that he had already told the national community that the focus should be on job "security and constructive dialogue." Said he, "I said in my last independence message

there were some trade unions which were a cause of concern. As a matter of fact I received a letter from the Employers Consultative Association (ECA) asking me for a meeting to discuss a matter which it considered had now reached alarming national proportions.

"And that is the growing tendency towards violence in pursuit of trade union objectives, where peoples' property, cars, houses are being damaged, people are assaulted and people who wish to work are being

prevented from doing so."

Chambers said that there were laws on the statute books which deals with such violations. Said he, "I have asked the Minister of National Security to arrange a meeting with the ECA as a matter of urgency in response to the letter and that he should have with him the Attorney General and the Minister of Labour and that I would like to see the results of that meeting as soon as it is concluded."

Arrest of OWTU Officers

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] TWO branch officers of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU), Lloyd Sieunarine and Joshua Garcia, are among 11 striking workers of Metal Box Ltd who are due to appear before Magistrate Ian Seukeran at the Tunapuna Court at 9 a.m. today charged with causing obstruction, using obscene language and assaulting a citizen seeking employment outside the company's compound.

Some of the other workers charged are Daphne Joseph, Michael Lendor, Colin Chase, Kenny Enoch, A. Phillip and Simon Thomas. The 11 workers appeared before Justice of the Peace Ralph Sadoo and were placed on their own bail in the sum of \$1,000 each yesterday. The workers were arrested outside the compound of Metal Box Ltd in Tunapuna.

Nine of the workers were charged jointly with causing

obstruction, while the other two were charged with causing obstruction, using obscene language and assault.

The 11 workers were arrested by a party of police officers which included Assistant Commissioner Ralph Morris, Senior Superintendent Harold St Louis, Superintendent Theodore Charles and acting Assistant Superintendent Oswin Allard.

Weekes 'Conspiracy' Charge

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 85 p 3

[Text]

MR. GEORGE WEEKES, President General of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), has written to Prime Minister George Chambers complaining that there was a conspiracy to weaken and destroy the OWTU and the trade union movement in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Weekes was referring to industrial action taken at Metal Box Limited, Caribbean Packaging Industries Limited and Caribbean Tyre Company Limited, formerly Dunlop.

He charged that there was a common link among the three companies in that they were connected to and operated in and made profits from South Africa.

Call for General Strike

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 Oct 85 p 3

[Text]

THE Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) has urged the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress to consider Monday, October 23, for the proposed one-day general strike to protest retrenchment and other social ills in the country.

The final session of the OWTU's 46th Annual Conference last Saturday passed a resolution supporting the Labour Congress strike call. The call was made on Labour Day after Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday accused Congress of dragging its seat on the sugar workers' wages issue.

Yesterday, OWTU leader George Weekes declined comment on a weekend statement by Prime Minister George Chambers that the Industrial Relations Act may be amended. But Weekes said he was "concerned" that every time the Government spoke with the Labour Congress there was the mistaken belief that it had spoken to the whole labour movement.

Said he: "This is unfortunate because the Labour Congress does not comprise all the trade unions in the country. There are a substantial number of trade unions under the umbrella of the Council of Progres-

sive Trade Unions (CPTU) and there are other trade unions as well, such as TTUTA, which does not belong to any of the two groupings."

Weekes said that Government should recognise all trade unions which are legally the representatives of workers in the country.

Said Weekes: "The Government should be encouraging labour unity. But we notice that the tactics used in the past had been to create divisions. This is not in the interest of the workers, the nation and the Government."

Weekes said the OWTU was prepared to give its full support to any party which had the workers' interest in mind. Said he: "We are not supporting any particular political party. We are supporting any party which will put the workers' interest first."

Complaint Against Tire Plant

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 Oct 85 p 40

[Text]

OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union leader George Weekes yesterday accused the Caribbean Tyre Company (Dunlop) of acting in "bad faith" announcing the re-opening of the factory gates at Point Fortin and imposing the same shift roster which caused the labour unrest at the plant earlier this month.

Weekes said that Caribbean Tyre abruptly cancelled a meeting scheduled at the Ministry of Labour with the union last Friday evening. He said the union was not consulted on the resumption of work at the plant set for this morning.

Said Weekes: "This advertisement on the part of Caribbean Tyre is a perfect example of

the bad faith of the management in dealing with the union. It gives the public a chance to observe the strategy and tactics employed by the company which we know has South African connections."

Weekes said the company did not give any reasons for cancelling Friday's meeting at the Ministry of Labour. He said the union was prepared then to try to resolve the issue.

He insisted that the workers were not on strike but that the company had locked the gates on them. An injunction by the company restrains the union from blocking the entrance to the company when the gates re-open today.

Two weeks ago, the

company closed its gates, claiming that protesting workers had invaded the offices, threatening workers and damaging company property. The gates were closed indefinitely. However, in response to a threat by the OWTU to march on the gates and forcibly re-open it, the company filed an injunction restraining such action.

The company said in full-page advertisements in both daily newspapers that "in respect of any worker who reports for work and performs the duties assigned to him, the company undertakes not to enforce its rights under the Court Order or treat his contract of employment as terminated for taking part in an illegal industrial action."

Disruption at Metal Box

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 85 p 1

[Text]

THE CALL by Metal Box Trinidad Limited to interested persons and striking workers to come to the Macoya factory for positions on the manufacturing lines, took a bizarre turn yesterday when a large number of strikers turned up to resume their jobs.

By seven a.m. strikers gathered in the company's canteen in such numbers that management at first was perplexed as to the motive: but when the workers insisted on being processed, management agreed to start filling forms.

However, before the processing got underway, the strikers went onto the factory floors, disrupting work, whereupon management closed the plant. Both the temporary workers as well as the strikers left the premises.

In order to get the whole employment situation in balanced context and restore full production, the company has invited all workers, temporary and permanent (those on strike) to report to the factory this morning when interested permanent workers will be given contracts to sign, and work assignments will be given to temporaries and permanents.

Company officials are hoping this will mark a beginning of a return to normal and that it is not merely a new technique by the strikers to disrupt operations.

The 270 hourly paid employees, members of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, have been on strike for more than seven weeks.

CSO: 3298/16

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA SEEN AS SOLUTION TO SLOW ECONOMY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Vashty Maharaj]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is seeking to increase trade with Latin American countries as part of a long term solution to the economic problems of Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Anthony Jacelon, spoke of this new leaning towards Latin American trade when he officially opened the premises of the Institute of Languages, Alcazar Street, St. Clair, yesterday.

He said that Government had commissioned a study to assist them in identifying the most feasible approach to adopt in bilateral negotiations with these Latin American countries.

Senator Jacelon outlined both short and long term solutions to the economic situation, pointing out that one of the ways to ensure the long term viability of the country was to seek out new sources of investment capital and markets, for the goods and services which this country can produce.

The recent tour of the Far East he listed as one of the moves towards this, but he said that special attention should also be paid to Latin America.

"The geographical proximity of these countries, particularly those on the rim of South America, makes them natural trading partners for the goods and services which Trinidad and Tobago can produce. But for historical and other reasons, our trade with them has been very small."

Imports from these countries have risen over the years, he said, but our exporters have been unable to breach the obstacles which stand in the way of our exports.

Resolving these trade problems would require bilateral negotiations, not only on increasing import and export trade, but also on agreements involving production on a joint venture basis.

This country, he said, has made general agreements of cooperation with several of these countries, but they were as yet inadequate and more specific steps are to be taken.

"These steps need to be informed by detailed knowledge of the problems attaching to trade in specific items in which this country has an interest.

"To assist in this identification, the government has decided to commission a study which would assist in identifying the most feasible approach which could be adopted in bilateral negotiations with individual countries in Latin America."

Apart from the Latin American move, Senator Jacelon said, government has received the report of the Technical Committee on the Private Foreign Investment Regime, and this will form the impetus for a new investment code "which will give the country a competitive edge in its search for private foreign investment, particularly investment which will provide an increase in the country's net exports of goods and services."

Senator Jacelon also pointed to the exploitation of the tourism potential of the country, noting that the completion of the Tobago terminal and the resurfacing of the Crown Point runway later this year would clearly assist in this effort.

CSO: 3298/1036

22 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

IMPORTS FROM CARICOM NATIONS FALL FROM HIGH POINT IN 1983

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 85 p 32

[Text]

BETWEEN 1982 and June 1985, the value of Caricom imports into Trinidad and Tobago fell from \$409.7 million to \$116.4 million, Minister of Industry and Commerce Wendell Mottley disclosed yesterday evening.

Mottley made the disclosure when he addressed a gathering of businessmen at the formal opening of the first Regional Furniture Manufacturers Consultation at the Holiday Inn in Port of Spain. The consultation starts today and will end tomorrow.

The value of Caricom imports reached a high of \$414.8 million in 1983. Giving the figures as \$409.7 million for 1982; \$414.8 million for 1983, \$337.4 million for 1984, and \$116.4 million from January to June, 1985, Mottley said the figures showed that it was clear that Trinidad and Tobago was going through adjustment.

"The figures also tell you that despite complaints in Caricom capitals, and especially in relation to the decline in total imports, Trinidad and Tobago is discharging its responsibilities to its Caricom partners," he said.

Mottley also told the furniture man-

ufacturers he hoped they would be able to extract optimum results from their plants, making it possible to fill large orders such as those which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago placed with the local industry for the furnishing of the Mt Hope Medical Complex and the Financial Complex, within a much reduced time frame.

Mottley also said he was certain that the furniture industry — wooden, upholstered, metal or plastic — would have tremendous potential as one united body. A merging of interests, he indicated, would enable the furniture manufacturers to pool their resources and to fight the depression in their industries by exploring existing opportunities such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

State-owned Tanteak, Mottley added, was currently looking at the need to improve the quality and grading of local teak to meet international standards.

Trinidad and Tobago, he added, now has the capacity to reap 6.8 million board feet of teak per year and potentially an even greater quantity of pine.

CSO: 3298/1036

22 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS, MOTTLEY DISCUSS FAR EAST TRIP, TRINTOC, LABOR

Trintoc, Trade Issues

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Sep 85' p 13

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is moving to have the assets of Texaco Trinidad Incorporated vested in the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc). Prime Minister George Chambers said this while meeting members and supporters of the Fyzabad constituency of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), as he continued his meet-the-party tour on Tuesday night.

And answering persons who criticised his recent Far East and European tour to drum up trade and investment, Mr. Chambers said assuming he did go cap in hand begging, he did it for Trinidad "and also Tobago."

Speaking at the Fyzabad Presbyterian School, Mr. Chambers said too that despite what critics might say the Government was handling the country's economy. It was being properly managed.

This was borne out by the fact that Trinidad and Tobago had the highest credit rating in Latin America and ranked 40th in the world.

On the Texaco/Trintoc matter, Mr. Chambers, who conceded that there was a housing problem in Fyzabad, recalled that he was informed that there was an agreement in principle between Texaco and the Ministry of Housing and Resettlement for the development of lands at areas in La Brea and Fyzabad.

He added: "These proposals were shelved when the Texaco negotiations began, and I can well understand the situation with Texaco."

"One of the things I would like you to bear in mind is that notwithstanding the purchase of Texaco, the assets purchased have not yet been vested in Trintoc."

"Trintoc will not be in a position to treat with anybody in respect of these assets. The reason for that is that the assets are being vested by Act of Parliament."

DRAFT READY

"The draft Bill is ready and will be taken to Parliament shortly and expedited. Thereafter, I believe Trintoc might then be in a position to act with respect to the agreement reached in principle with the Ministry of Housing and Resettlement."

The lands are located in Belle Vue (La Brea) and Mondesir/Delhi Road, Fyzabad.

Promising to look into those matters personally so some sort of relief could be provided to the affected, Mr. Chambers who is meeting all 36 constituencies in his capacity as Political Leader of the PNM, said in spite of the economic situation Trinidad and Tobago could still stay above the water.

And although Government could not now provide all the jobs required to absorb all the school leavers, he was not afraid to go out to the world.

"I was not afraid to go out to the world and face the world with a record of achievement not only for infrastructural development, but economic performance which stood up to all the questions put at me on my recent tour."

"And I am very surprised..perhaps I shouldn't be...to read that my trip was referred to as going to beg cap in hand. But the answer to that is assuming that I did go to beg cap in hand, I went to beg cap in hand for the benefit of Trinidad and also Tobago." (applause)

Mr. Chambers repeated his warning made recently that it was not easy to beat the PNM.

Mottley Reply to Critics

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago's official trade and investment mission to Europe and the Far East did achieve a "helluva a lot" in spite of the snide remarks about the effort which was led by Prime Minister George Chambers.

Senator Wendell Mottley, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, underline this point when he spoke at the annual conference of the St. Ann's East Constituency of the People's National Movement (PNM) yesterday morning.

Senator Mottley told his audience which included Mr. Chambers, who is parliamentary representative of the constituency, that the venture was mounted because of economic, trade and political reasons.

He explained to the packed Maracas Valley Community Centre that one of the lasting impressions of the trip was that there was a tremendous amount of goodwill for Trinidad and Tobago in the countries visited.

He attributed this to many reasons, including this country's "principled stand" on foreign relations, our performance at international forums including the United Nations.

The way in which Government handled the economy was also admired by the international community he said, thence the Chambers party was able to command the respect of leading financial institutions in London and other metropolitan capitals.

Giving a brief country-by-country account, Senator Mottley said he found Korea to be a very energetic country. He injected a light moment when he suggested that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chambers) consider the possibility of Government producing and marketing a well-known local tree bark said to possess aphrodisiacal properties.

He did so in the context of the Korean Government's monopoly in the production of the inter-

nationally popular Ginseng, also said to have the same properties.

On trade, Senator Mottley continued:

"We did accomplish, no matter what snide remarks are being made, we have accomplished a helluva lot.

"We sold thousands of tons of urea to both India and China and that is a fact, ladies and gentlemen. But these sales were made on reciprocity, they were not done as a hand-out.

"Obviously, China and India are looking to develop trading relationships with us part of a new pattern of deepening trade between developing countries rather than the old pattern of trade with Britain, the United States, their traditional partners."

SHOWING GOODWILL

Now, he said, those two countries — the world's most populous (China) and the world's largest democracy (India) were showing their goodwill by demonstrating they could and would be buying from us.

Describing the weekend visit to Trinidad and Tobago of the Taj Hotel Group from India as producing "favourable discussions," Senator Mottley said the trip also showed clear testimony of the kind of respect the international financial community had for Trinidad and Tobago.

Stressing that the key work now must be "follow-up," Minister Mottley reiterated that the mission worked very hard and Government would have been remiss in its responsibilities if it did not go out there in the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Concerning criticisms of the trip, Senator Mottley emphasised:

"We as the Government in charge we have to go out and, irrespective of what they say, we will pursue your interests.

"Clearly, this is a new time, a new era for Trinidad and Tobago; we are going forward in the adjustment process, we are surviving, the people outside know that, they understand that better than a lot of people right here who should know better.

"They (foreign countries) have had reports from their embassies and missions in Port-of-Spain. When we went out there they understood our position, they congratulated us on how we are running this country and are prepared to lend us the kind of support we need at this time."

Remarks on Industrial Relations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Clewon Raphael]

[Text] AMENDMENTS are to be made shortly to the Industrial Relations Act (IRA), Prime Minister George Chambers said on Saturday afternoon.

Speaking to the Arouca constituency of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) during another leg of his meet-the-party tour, the Prime Minister, however, did not disclose the nature of the changes, coming at a time when there are a number of industrial disputes in the country.

Mr. Chambers, appearing in his capacity as Political Leader of the PNM, said he had in his possession a "huge report" on the country's squatting population, and Trinidad and Tobago's taxation policies were constantly under review.

Talking to PNMMites at the Five Rivers Junior Secondary School, Mr. Chambers said one of the things the country must safeguard was the freedom of the Press. He was replying to a point made earlier by one of the constituency's party groups and said he did not propose to deal with the industrial relations atmosphere at the moment.

He elaborated:

"I can tell you, however, that on the basis of discussions with the Labour Congress, the Ministry of Labour and some employer organisations, I think some amendments to the IRA have already been agreed for enactment.

"It would be a matter for the Minister of Labour to bring it forward at the appropriate time. I don't believe it has yet come to us for the simple reason that all areas of possible review have not yet been exhausted in the discussions that are going on between the people concerned."

Mr. Chambers, who repeated his advice that citizens have the right to complain to the Public Utilities Commission about inadequate service from any utility rather than going to their parliamentary representative or a councillor, spoke about the taxation situation in the country, another issue raised from the floor.

Tax Under Review

The system of taxation, he assured, was something that was continuously being looked at in the Ministry of Finance, Mr Chambers continued:

"We (the Ministry of Finance) do not ourselves consider that taxation is a stated or settled matter at any given time. It is constantly under review, people are always putting up papers to Mr Jacelon (Senator Anthony Jacelon, minister in the Ministry of Finance) and onward to me for consideration.

"We look at it all the time."

On the news media, Mr Chambers said:

"We have a Constitution which guarantees freedom of the Press in Trinidad and Tobago and one of the things we must ensure in the PNM is that we preserve, we preserve the freedom of the Press.

"It is not something that we must play with. That same freedom which is being used today allegedly, according to what you say (one of those who spoke earlier) against you, might at sometime in the future be used for you."

22 October 1985

PRC Envoy's Message

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 85 p 13

[Excerpts]

FRIENDLY relations and co-operation between China and Trinidad and Tobago will be enhanced with each passing day, according to Ambassador Cui Mingtang of the People's Republic of China, in a message to mark that country's national day today. The message was delivered in a radio-television hook-up.

The Ambassador said:

Ladies and gentlemen, friends:

Today is the 36th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese people are celebrating their festival with jubilation. At this joyous moment, I feel pleased to have the chance to say a few words to the people of Trinidad and Tobago, and wish to express to the Government and people of this country the assurances of my highest consideration.

China's economic development over the last few years has been closely linked to the ongoing economic reform.

The economic reforms also include a shift from the former state of closing the country off from international trade to a policy of opening to the outside world, namely while mainly relying on its own abilities to build the country, China also introduces foreign funds and advanced technology, and has already obtained useful experiences in this respect.

China, a developing socialist country, is striving unswervingly for peace and a stable international environment in which to develop. In recent years, our country has, through reduction of its military spending, been shifting a considerable portion of its defence industry to civilian production. Earlier this year, it took a further bold step by reducing its armed forces by one million men. This is a concrete contribution to the safeguarding of world peace.

China and Trinidad and Tobago belong to the Third World, and both our two countries love peace and oppose war. Trinidad and Tobago pursues an independent foreign policy, and is playing an increasingly important role in international affairs.

Prime Minister George Chambers's successful visit to China not long ago will serve as a strong motive force in furthering the mutual understanding between our two peoples and in strengthening and developing our two countries' cooperation in fields of economy, trade, science and technology.

It is my belief that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Trinidad and Tobago will be enhanced with each passing day, and the friendship between our two peoples will be everlasting.

CSO: 3298/14

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REPORTAGE ON NAR POLICIES, STATEMENTS, ACTIONS

Platform Highlights

FL111235 Bridgetown CANA in English 2009 GMT 10 Sep 85

[By Debra Ransome; ellipses as received]

[Excerpts] Port-of-Spain, 7 Sep--Claiming that Trinidad and Tobago is a virtual one-party state, the opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), which is being formally launched tomorrow, says the forging of a new democracy will be a top priority should it win power.

The four-party alliance, expected to mount the major challenge to the ruling People's National Movement's 29-year stronghold on national policies, made the point in a document that will be adopted as its manifesto for the next general election.

Trinidad and Tobago today is virtually a one-party state by the misuse (by the government) of its parliamentary majority, said the NAR's platform for democracy.

The alienation of our people from the decision-making processes must be ended. The forging of a new democracy for the people must be the priority in the national agenda today.

The platform for democracy provides a wide range of policy outlines touching parliamentary, electoral, legal, and tax reform. One of the basic guidelines is that the state must control the commanding heights of the economy, but should aim to relieve itself of involvement in industrial business and commercial enterprise in other areas.

The document also recommends the decentralisation of as much of government's functions as possible, and implementing a reasonable devolution of power on local government authorities.

Excerpts from the document:

Foreign Investment:

There must [be] a national screening process to examine, approve, monitor and evaluate foreign investments. The purpose of this screening process is to ensure a complementary [as received] between private and social benefits, and a constituency [as received] in objectives among all forms of investments.

With respect to Trinidad and Tobago investments abroad, foreign exchange management practices and monitoring procedures must ensure that, among other economic objectives, such investments will result in a net foreign exchange earner within a specified time period....

Social Policy:

The national insurance scheme would be expanded to include a system of unemployment insurance.

Constitutional and Electoral Reforms:

The appointment of an ombudsman to ensure the effective functioning of the Elections and Boundaries Commission...the establishment of an Integrity Commission with adequate machinery to deal effectively with the problem of corruption... there must be teeth to the office of ombudsman...the constitution will be amended to ensure that no prime minister may serve more than two consecutive terms.

Public Sector Enterprises:

The policy of divestment of shares of state enterprises would be followed where public enterprises may divest their equity to workers, unions, cooperatives, and private investors .. an effective divestment process may include the establishment of a holding company for all public sector enterprises.

Local Government:

All functions of a local government nature would be brought under the control of local government authorities, and the scope of local government would be increased and its powers enhanced.

Foreign Policy:

The NAR will pursue vigorously the cause of regionalism and would spare no effort in working towards a stronger and integrated Caribbean. In so doing, the NAR will advocate the case for regional security and the inviolability of the sovereignty of individual states. The Caribbean should be made a zone of peace, free from super-power rivalry.

The NAR will seek actively to broaden and strengthen commercial and trading relations, particularly with neighbouring Latin America....

Tobago:

The NAR Government will honour the national commitment to internal self-government for Tobago, and will take the necessary steps to facilitate the transformation of the economy of the island of Tobago from a dependent consumer oriented community into a productive self-reliant economy, as well as to provide for residents of Tobago, as far as is reasonable, facilities and amenities for self-expression and self-improvement equal to those available to residents of Trinidad.

22 October 1985

Robinson Speech

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11, 12 Sep 85 pp 9, 10

[Address by Mr A.N.R. Robinson, Political Leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction at the Inaugural Conference of the NAR on Sunday, 8 September]

[Text]

THIS Inaugural Conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction will, in the near future, be regarded as one of the greatest political events in the history of Trinidad and Tobago.

My heartiest congratulations to all of you who have attended in your thousands and made the occasion the outstanding success it has been.

The conference has been the culmination of much hard work, dedication, courage, and personal sacrifice.

It has been the outcome of long and arduous negotiations in which we have had rough passages and anxious, even heartbreaking moments. Above all, however, it has been a triumph of political will.

ESSENTIAL

As I have had reason to observe in my many public utterances, political will is the most essential ingredient in the transformation process in developing countries.

With the necessary political will, great feats can be accomplished. Without it, molehills become unmanageable mountains.

The conference has also been a triumph of faith — faith in ourselves, faith in the population of Trinidad and Tobago.

While others were wishfully predicting we could never do it, we went ahead and demonstrated that we could.

The doubting Thomases will, of course, continue to doubt. The

Nehemiahs among us will have their day.

You have had today the results of our labours in the constitution and in the Platform from Democracy.

You have heard that these must not be regarded as finished documents but subject to revision and amendment to respond to what must be a dynamic situation and to meet the demands of experience, growth and evolution.

Finally, you have elected your officers and I feel honoured to be captain of such a team. Within the past few months I have had the pleasure of working more closely with Basdeo Panday and Karl Hudson-Phillips than have ever done before.

ABILITY

They are men of considerable ability, experience, and integrity and I have no doubt about their commitment to the task ahead.

I look forward to working together with them and the N.A.R. as a whole and feel confident that in the coming months and years ahead, we will make great progress toward achievement of our goals.

We must not for one moment, however, underrate the nature of the task before us.

In our constitution, as you have heard from Mr. Hudson-Phillips, we have set out our fundamental aims and objects: to work towards national unity; to promote the economic, social, moral, cultural and educational development of our people; to uphold the rule of law, the fundamental rights of the individual within a framework of economic and social justice and religious freedom and a democratic system of political participation sensitive to the multiple interests in our society.

We are committed by our constitution to foster patriotic and social cohesion; to provide good and humane government with high standards of service and integrity; to promote economic, cultural and political association with other Caribbean countries; to support and collaborate with all peoples struggling against colonialism, racism, fascism and apartheid and in defence and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Our constitution, therefore, demands from us, individual and social commitment of the highest order within the context of a world perspective and against the background of a definitive philosophical position.

Our world perspective and philosophy have their origins in Caribbean history and in the nature of Caribbean society. The forces which have shaped us have created a unique Caribbean environment and a distinctive Caribbean humanity.

We are the progeny of the historical interaction of the four major continents of Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

We have been fashioned by the most cataclysmic forces in human history — capitalism and the industrial revolution, the French revolution, the American War of Independence, the Haitian and Cuban revolutions, Colonialism, Indian indenture and the African slave trade.

Nowhere in the world has there been such social upheaval in such an aesthetically pleasing environment. Our history is at once a cause for pride, our richest source of education, our highest source of inspiration.

In less than two months, we here in Trinidad and Tobago celebrate Emancipation, Independence and Republic Day.

We can never, however, appreciate the significance of these great events without a world perspective and a philosophical position on the nature and destiny of mankind.

I believe that men and women are capable of lofty aspirations and can respond to noble appeals; that in all of us there is a conception of right and wrong and notions of good and bad.

"Since men aim at the good," said Aristotle, "the state, which is the highest form of community, aims at the highest good."

THEORIES

There may be different theories as to what is good but all are based on the fundamental notion of good which is inherent in the very nature of man.

Not only do we have a conception of right and wrong and notions of good and bad, we all have a notion of truth and falsehood and we can all appreciate beauty.

We all aspire to a better life. And we know that a "better life" is not limited to material things such as cars, fridges and stereos, however desirable these may be.

None of us would choose to live in a community of thieves and liars or one which is prone to violence and devoid of the arts.

The slave system was sometimes defended on the ground that it brought the black man into contact with white civilisation.

This argument ignored the fact that the system itself was in conflict with that very civilisation.

Proponents of Apartheid in South Africa, advance the argument that the black majority enjoys a higher standard of living than in the independent state of Africa.

This ignores the fact that it denies the very humanity of the black majority.

"Men are born and always continue free and equal in respect of their rights," said Thomas Paine, one of the great propagandists of the American War of Independence.

"The end of all political associations is the preservation of the natural and inalienable rights of man and these rights are liberty, property, security and resistance of oppression."

TRADITION

Paine thus joined the struggle against absolutism and on the side freedom. "Where there is no freedom, there is my country,"

he declared, demonstrating his world perspective and his belief in the universality of human nature and human aspirations.

The philosophical tradition in defence of the rights of man forms an essential part of the Caribbean tradition. It underlies Emancipation, Independence and the Republican form of government.

It is the philosophical ideas behind these historical events that give significance and meaning to the events themselves.

If today the population demonstrates little interest in the celebration of Independence, if the celebration of Emancipation threatens to be restricted and stultified into the reproduction of mere historical forms, it is because the philosophies of liberation behind these events are insulated from the events themselves.

The emphasis on forms and entertainment — on parades and fetes, to the exclusion of intellectual content, thus robs our history of its meaning and deprives us of our distinctive humanity.

Caribbean society has participated in all the great debates in world history in the past 400 years. Our rich cultural heritage has provided us not only with our platform for Democracy but also a platform for innovation.

POSITIONS

The task before us is to release the vast creative energies of our people. This can be done not by the politics of power but by the politics of transformation.

The National Alliance for Reconstruction, by its constitution and platform for Democracy, is irrevocably committed to the transformation of our society.

While we seek to achieve power, we must never forget that the quest for power and the use of power must be governed by principles and laws.

Today, I accept the responsibility that you have placed upon my shoulders as your political leader. My style is open and democratic, not clandestine and dictatorial.

I have come to this position after 30 years in public life where I have served at every level, nationally and internationally, in government and in opposition, from the General Assembly of the United Nations to imprisonment in a police cell.

In all of these positions I have always sought to hold aloft the transcendental ideas of service to the people of this country and more generally, the Caribbean and indeed all mankind.

I believe that it is in recognition of this service that you have today entrusted me with responsibility as your political leader.

I, in turn, wish to make it clear that I would not have accepted this position if I did not have in abiding faith in you and the population at large. I am and have always been totally committed to this country and have no interest anywhere else.

The man who today is brazenly attempting to categorise me as a foreigner served in the Ministry of External Affairs with me as his Minister and Deputy Political Leader of his party.

That, of course, was some time ago. He was respectful then but was a schemer and was never particularly bright.

His effort illustrates, however, the level of the campaign that we will face in the months ahead. Tobago faced it last year and came through with flying colours.

They were to be shown who is Prime Minister and were to experience the full might of the PNM.

They conducted their campaign with a full armoury of dirty tricks — the dirtiest ever in the history of Trinidad and Tobago. I was amazed at what I saw.

Listen to this, an extract from the elevated PNM campaign literature:

"Check with the Tobago C.I.D. They can supply the statements of the messenger and other officers.

This is the truth.

ALLOCATION

"Murder, comrades, of an innocent public servant who had nothing to do with allocation of meeting place to the Assembly, simply because in the opinion of the arbitrators, the venue was not prestigious enough, so they murdered an innocent man just for that imagine!!!

These notorious characters, people of Tobago, are sitting in office, places of public trust and responsibility?

"Murderers, arsonists, rapists, thieves, these are Representatives? Will you return them?"

The PNM literature continues maintaining its high standard:

"It is therefore, not surprising, that they could so easily plan and execute a murder plan and execute arson, rape, steal and lie.

"It is therefore not surprising that they could have taken \$53 million TT and so easily part with some in paying Maurice Bishop and Fidel Castro for ammunition.

"Did Maurice or Fidel sweat here to accumulate this sum, did they pay taxes here? In what way have they contributed?

"Not even Tobago could have raised this sum over the last 20 years. We are being maintained without a murmur by Trinidad.

"Did you stop to think that there are several constituencies in Trinidad whose population is more than Tobago's? Naturally in each of these, contribution to the Treasury is singly more than Tobago and collectively will speak for itself."

DOCUMENT

Listen again to the document:

"Now you will understand why this forthcoming election will be the most seriously contested in our history, it is an exercise for survival, an exercise for taking our country back from these murderers, arsonists, thieves, murderers of public servants, burners of and destroyers of state property."

The PNM lecture in political science continues:

"The question now, Tobagonians, will you exchange your association with Trinidad for an association with Russia? You decide whether thou goest.

"Choose democracy as maintained by unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago or sell yourselves cheaply to murderers, arsonists, rapists, liars, thieves, deceive and confuse specialists.

"In Communism you will not be able to worship. The Communist does not believe in God. The heavy roller (assemblyman) does not accept or believe in God either.

"He has debarred his wife and children from association with any church. None of his children has ever been christened.

"All our old people will be put to sleep, all our funds in the bank collected at great sacrifice will be taken away, our property will all be taken, our mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, nieces, god-mothers, god-daughters will all be the property of the imperial committee of the communist and we will not be able to say a single word."

ABSENCE

It can never be easy to beat a party that can produce that kind of literature. What it demonstrates is the complete absence of moral restraint, the obsession with power; the conviction that power is its own justification.

Copies of this and other PNM campaign documents were handed over to the police. They violate several of the criminal laws of this country.

No one has been searched; no one has been arrested.

It was against the background of these clandestine circulars charging communism, violence, rape, arson, murder, theft, secession, treason against members of the Tobago House of Assembly that Mr. Chambers announced his intention to carry his army of supporters to Tobago and have the biggest political rally the island has ever seen, the week-end before polling day.

To add to the intimidation, numerous policemen including secret service men were flown into the island and stories circulated of searches for hidden arms and ammunition. The campaign of hatred against me personally, was intense.

The climax was the story in the Tobago *Informer* of Tuesday, November 13, 1984, headlined: "Cuban vessel in King's Bay." reporting:

"Intelligence reports reaching the Tobago *Informer* reveal that in July this year, a foreign boat entered King's Bay Harbour.

"The boat remained in the harbour from 12.01 to 2 p.m. before it pulled up anchor. It was further revealed that the foreign vessel had a consignment of arms for those who had already visited Grenada when Bishop was in power.

SECLUDED

"And this secluded harbour was selected because of the publicity given to Castara and Pigeon Point as those places where arms are off-loaded."

The front page article in the "Tobago *Informer*" was accompanied by a photograph of weapons undercaptioned "Part of arms cache already in Tobago." The PNM were having a field day on their public platforms.

Prime Minister Chambers gloried in the dirty tricks, flexing his muscles and threatening to take away all the so-called power of the Tobago House of Assembly.

He was showing Tobago what kind of man this country has as Prime Minister. It was a brazen attempt by the PNM to steal the election by force and fraud.

The "Informer" story was exposed in the "Daily Express" and the weekly "TNT Mirror." (Thanks to the free Press) for what it was — a dirty and dangerous little piece of mischief designed to subvert the democratic process.

It is interesting to note that up to this day the Prime Minister of this country, who has proclaimed his own personal campaign against drug abuse, has not uttered one word of condemnation of these dirty tricks or even sought to disassociate himself in any way from them.

The damage being done to the psyche of the nation by the PNM obsession with power and total lack of moral restraint, has been paralleled by the damage to the management of the finances and the economy of the country.

As usual, the most glaring instances occur at election time.

Take a brief look at our financial statistics and the impact of the elections in 1961, 1971 and 1981.

For the election of 1961, the PNM virtually eliminated the country's current account surplus which fell from \$29.8 million to \$1.8 million and drove us into increased taxation the year after the election.

In 1971, a surplus of \$32.8 million was converted into a deficit of \$6.5 million on current account and drove us into even more severe taxation the year after the election.

SURPLUS

From commitments made in 1981, the year of the last general election, a surplus of \$3.4 billion was reduced to \$1 billion, in 1982, and disappeared in 1983, resulting in increased taxation on an unprecedented scale.

It is important to understand the enormity of the crime of reducing a current account surplus by \$2.4 billion in a single year. To achieve this stupendous feat, recurrent expenditure was increased from \$3.6 billion to \$6 billion or by 70 per cent.

Arising from the PNM campaign of 1981, our recurrent expenditure was almost doubled in a single year, our current surplus and long term funds virtually eliminated.

It is in this context that we must view the trip to the Far East and the nightly mouthings of Government Ministers, that they propose to do in one year, what they have miserably failed to do in more than a decade.

Contrary to what Mr. Chambers thinks, economic power has not shifted to the Far East.

The Singapore economy is in trouble because of a too narrow

base and over-dependence on foreign capital. The South Korea economy has always been precarious because of exploitation of work force, its over-dependence on export markets and authoritarian structure of government.

Businessmen in Hong Kong, as Chambers himself was prepared to admit, are looking for other areas to invest; China is only now experimenting with a mixed economy, in a socialist structure of government.

Japan is and continues to be the only real enduring miracle in the Far East.

This is not in any way to belittle the achievements of these other countries. The outstanding common factor in their economic success, has been their high rate of investment.

For, as the governor of our Central Bank, has recently been quoted as saying:

HIGH RATE

"You cannot develop a country on bank overdraft." A high rate of investment demands that either the country saves to invest or it borrows other people's savings to invest.

And no one today is content simply to send or lend their savings to others to do with as they like.

It must be remembered that foreign investors seek quite naturally to retain a large measure of control over the use of their hard earned savings, by direct investment whether in joint ventures or through subsidiary companies and branches.

It must also be remembered that the funds for investment come from the totality of national savings through postponing or foregoing consumption.

The reason for the Far East pilgrimage, thus becomes clear. After a decade of the most stupendous growth in the value of our domestic output and our national income, our country has been reduced to hawking its virtue throughout Europe and the Far East in the search for other people's savings to finance our investment.

This should come as no surprise, as in the decade of opulence, the PNM message was very persistent and very clear: Spend and consume.

It was as late as 1981, in the campaign for the general elections, that a PNM candidate told the electorate "What are they talking about agriculture? We have the money and can buy the food!

WORSE STATE

They proposed to buy the food for the school feeding programme, prepared in packages from Luxembourg. At the same time, they were proposing to purchase rock from Nova Scotia and transport it by barge for the Piarco and Crown Point Airport projects!

Nowhere was the spree on consumption more frenzied than in the government itself, right up to the 1981 elections.

The bills for that election amounted to a cool \$2000 million. Then we were informed by our Prime Minister after the elections: "De fete dun."

Now they are in a worse state than ever, over dependent upon foreign investment rather than being in a

position to select the kind of foreign investment that is appropriate to our development needs

There will be a rapid increase in the public debt. The decline in activity on the stock market is clearly the result of the drying up of investment funds, and the low share prices now being offered are no encouragement to the new local investors who have watched the value of their investment move inexorably downward.

The fact that the savings function in Trinidad and Tobago has virtually disappeared, is not due to anything that has happened in the world economy or to foreign machination.

It is a direct result of PNM economic gimmickry and their win-at-any-cost philosophy. Without a doubt, the PNM elections campaign is on and follows the pattern I have indicated.

There is absolutely no room for our complacency. The PNM can be beaten. They were beaten in the local government elections in Trinidad in 1983, and in the Tobago House of Assembly elections in 1984 they were beaten 11-1. But I agree with Mr. Chambers: it ain't easy!

We must now move to put our own house in order. The people demand it, the country needs it. Individual ambition must be subordinated to the common good.

Order and discipline must be established. If we cannot govern ourselves we have no right to aspire to govern the nation.

Rules

We must learn to resolve our differences within a framework of accepted rules of behaviour; we must learn when to advance and when gracefully to retreat. Politics sometimes brings out the worst in human beings. It can also bring out the best. Let us strive for the best.

Now that the National Alliance for Reconstruction is a reality, now that we have our constitution, and our platform for democracy, let us close ranks, rally around our leadership and go to the people in their homes, in the fields, in their offices, in the factories, everywhere, giving them new hope, new inspiration, a new vision and new strength.

This country needs a rescue operation. History and destiny have placed this responsibility squarely upon our shoulders.

Let us proceed to the task with dignity, courage and an unshakeable political will. Let us build, as we certainly can, a great party and a great nation.

Panday Address

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13, 14 Sep 85 p 9

[Speech of the Leader of the Opposition Mr Basdeo Panday, at the inaugural conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction Sunday, 8 September, at Queen's Park Savannah]

[Text]

MR. CHAIRMAN, my illustrious Political Leader, Mr. Deputy Political Leader, honoured guests, delegates and observers, my sisters and brothers.

At long last! God Bless us! We have made it, at long last. For almost 140 years these blessed islands have been waiting for a sign — a genuine and irrevocable demonstration of national unity.

Since the day of its birth as a nation some 23 years ago our peoples have been yearning for the emergence of a saviour that would transform this highly plural society of ours into a nation of one people, with one hope, with one aspiration, with one goal.

Today Sunday September 8, 1985 — that Saviour is born and his name is NAR — the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

HISTORIC

For me, personally, this historic day is the culmination of 20 years of political struggle — a voice in the wilderness of opposition politics crying for national unity. Today my heart is full and my cup runneth over.

This day will be remembered by generations yet unborn as the day on which our nation came of age, when men and women of stature and goodwill, generosity and magnanimity, decide, irrevocably, that this nation of many races, colours and creed is one, single and indivisible.

Nowhere in modern times has such singular purpose been more unequivocally demonstrated than in the formation of our party — the NAR — with one policy and programme, one symbol, one leader and one purpose.

This day is quintessentially significant because of the social legacy we inherited from our checkered history.

The struggles of the colonial powers for these islands in the 18th. and 19th. centuries together with ravages of slavery and indenture have left us one of the most highly plural societies in the world.

Only here you can find French, Spanish, British, American, Portuguese, Chinese, Syrians, Lebanese, Indian, African, Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Pentecostal and Orthodox Greek, all crammed into less than 2000 square miles of land space.

Even though you may find such diverse elements in other parts of the world, nowhere else are they called upon to live in such close and tight social relationships as in Trinidad and Tobago.

Ours is, therefore, the most peculiarly plural society in the world.

It is a plurality that has several dimensions of interests based on differences of race, class, creed, ethnicity, or one or either of all of them depending on the particular conjuncture with which the individual is confronted.

My brothers and sisters, with that kind of kaleidoscopic configuration it is not surprising that ours has been a society with deep-seated antagonisms, suspicions, and conflict among our diverse peoples.

Neither you nor I nor none of us are responsible for the divisive nature of our society. That is the legacy of our history.

The fragmented nature of our society has provided our colonial masters with the perfect foundation for application of the formula of divide and rule.

It is a pity that our post-Independence rulers had neither the foresight nor the courage to abandon this nefarious and destructive strategy for staying in power.

My brothers and sisters, I am convinced in my mind that this fragmentation of our society has been the most dangerous single constraint and the most powerful obstacle to the economic, political and social development of our beloved country.

It stands to reason that if half your population is going to the right and the other half is going to the left there is no way you can go forward.

Although it is true that this fragmentation is the result of our history and that neither you nor I are responsible for creating it, what we are responsible for is to bring an end to it once and for all.

MASTERS

Men are masters of their fate and the fault dear friends is not in our stars but in ourselves.

We have not only a duty and a responsibility but, indeed, the power to remove this debilitating influence in our society.

If you look at our country closely you will see what I mean. Traditionally, we have been the richest of the West Indian Islands, and yet we have not developed that deep sense of nationalism and patriotism that one finds in, say, Jamaica or Barbados or even Grenada.

Dr Williams called us a nation of transients, but maybe Lloyd Best put it even more poignantly when he said that Trinidad was the only country he knew in which everybody felt second class.

What I am saying, my brothers and sisters, is that there is a deep sense of aliation among all our peoples.

The Indians feel that they are excluded from the political decision-making process and so they feel second class.

The Africans feel that they do not have a meaningful place in the economic life of the country and so they feel second class.

The whites feel that they are a small minority and do not count in the political system and so they feel second class. Everybody feels discriminated against in one way or the other.

It is my humble submission that it is this deep feeling of alienation that has been the root cause of our failure to build and create a nation.

Without that sense of nationhood; without that feeling of nationalism, there can be no national will, no national direction, no national goal and, alas, no national pride.

It is that painful necessity to get rid of the excruciating pangs of alienation that has given birth to the NAR. But things do not happen before their time. The objective situation has got to be just right.

For several years prior to the oil boom there has been a growing consciousness among our people that something is radically wrong with our country.

The social explosion of the 1970's was but a manifestation of that consciousness; an explosive expression of the frustration and helplessness felt by our youths and the country generally.

But then came the heady days of the oil boom and we forgot for a while what it was like to be poor and destitute.

Now that those days are over and we have returned to unemployment and poverty our consciousness deepens.

We wake up to the fact that over the past 12 years the PNM Government has collected and spent some \$60 billion of the nation's wealth and we are still without a regular supply of drinking water for a mere 1.2 million people; that we are still without a reliable supply of electricity; our people are still without housing as they continue to demolish our shacks; children still die at the hospitals because of the lack of proper medical facilities; our roads are still in a mess; and now we must contend with high prices, unemployment, and retrenchment and a rapidly falling standard of living in a worsening situation of crime and drugs.

How come such a thing has happened? Where has all the money gone? Why did we let such a thing happen?

How come the PNM Government, the perpetrators of this crime upon the people — have been allowed to remain in office all this time? The consciousness deepens.

NAKED TRUTH

And gradually the naked truth is dawning upon the people that the PNM has been conning us for years by dividing us so as to perpetuate themselves in power, in spite of their corruption maladministration and inefficiency.

It is against this background that there began to emerge in our society a deep longing for national unity. And the people demonstrated that longing by adopting a system of rewards and punishment.

Unity would be rewarded and disunity severely punished. In 1976 when the ULF fought against the DAC and the Tapia House Movement the electorate demonstrated in no uncertain terms their displeasure.

Again in 1981 when the ULF, the DAC and the Tapia joined together in Alliance, but fought against the ONR, the electorate again inflicted punishment on them.

But by 1983 the Opposition had learnt its lesson and when they all united in accommodation to fight the Local Government elections the electorate gave them a resounding vote of confidence.

That unity has since deepened and today, in answer to your call for unity, we come before you as the NAR, a united political force in opposition to the ruling regime. And our theme is national unity.

The objective of the NAR is to forge a political mechanism that would bring together the various strands and interests in our plural society into the decision-making process so that all groups can participate meaningfully in the political, social and economic life of the country.

In that way no one would feel left out and we shall bring to an end that debilitating feeling of alienation that has militated against our progress.

National unity is not only an electoral strategy for winning elections. It is the foundation without which there can be no economic development.

IMPORTANT

You see, our most important resource is not the oil and the wealth — it is our human resource; and unless you mobilise that resource and inspire it with evangelical zeal for the task of nation-building we are going nowhere.

But how can you inspire people unless they are assured that at the end of their labours they will be treated fairly and equally, with justice, respect and humanity? These are things people must have as a right — not as a favour, not as a bribe.

If you want a job — even a ten days — you have to bribe or have a contact, it is not yours as of right. If you want a house, a piece of state land, medical attention, a birth certificate, even water, you get it not as of right but as a favour.

How can you ask people to lineup to be disciplined to take his turn, when he knows that when his turn comes to be served he will have to bribe or pull a string for what is his as of right? Now you understand the full implications of mobilisation of our human resources.

An NAR Government must see this as its first

task. Having mobilised our people the next step is to tell the people the truth about the state of the nation.

They must know exactly where we are and what is the task that lies ahead.

Level with the people. If the situation is blood and sand tell them so. Our people have in the past demonstrated tremendous resilience when the chips are down. They are capable of facing the facts and doing what is necessary to deal with the situation.

CLEARLY

Having told them where we are we must then indicate to them in clear and unambiguous terms where we want to go and how we intend to get there.

A plan of action must clearly identify the problems and the proposals for solution. Priorities must be set, explained to the people and adhered to. It is only then will our people have the zeal to produce and the patience to wait.

The NAR believes that a truly democratic government has one purpose and one purpose only and that is the happiness of its people.

It must provide the conditions which would enable the people to find happiness in their own way.

A man cannot be happy unless he has the basic necessities of life — food, clothing, shelter, health and educational facilities and public utilities.

But to be able to afford food, clothes, housing etc, you must have

money — that means a job.

Priority must, therefore, be given to agriculture and agro-industries, storage, processing and marketing.

If agriculture is organised sensibly you will not only provide the food people need but you can create the raw materials necessary for a host of downstream industries with export potential.

The importance of agriculture as an industry in a plan for economic development is that it allows for the development of intermediate technology, something we can handle comfortably, and for which we already have a strong base. That is the way to provide permanent and well-paid jobs.

LARGE

There already exists a large local market for food. We imported some \$930 million worth of food last year.

If we could organise our food industry that the \$930 million stayed here, can you imagine how many jobs we would have created?

And the spin-offs are virtually limitless. A food industry involves farming of all kinds, fishing, packaging and printing, paper and plastic industries, manufacturing, transport, marketing, research and innovations and a host of other activities.

The Government has spoken of an export thrust but no thought has been given to the whole question of exports. When you talk about exports the first thing you ask yourself is; What am I going to export.

You must have a product that is in demand in a foreign country, at a price that is competitive. What do we have that other countries want? Computers, machinery, aeroplanes? Certainly not.

What we must do is to look at our capacity to produce new prod-

ucts from our own raw materials at competitive prices — products which others do not have.

Our pitch is a good example. Had we been doing research and development on our local raw materials we would have had hundreds of products on a lively export market creating thousands of jobs.

About four years ago I told the Prime Minister that what we ought to do is organise an annual inventors and innovators fair, at which we offer \$300,000 as the first prize for the best innovation or invention, \$200,000 for the second prize and \$100,000 for the third.

Such inventions could be judged according to set criteria, eg the proportion of local input, the usefulness of the invention to the society, its potential for mass production etc.

And if such an invention or innovation can be established as an industry then financial and other assistance must be provided to allow the inventor to set up business.

INTELLIGENT

Our people are an extremely intelligent and innovative people. If you implement such a project in five to ten years time you would be well on the way to a successful export trade. Again more jobs.

Instead, what do we have? I have been told by some businessmen that if they come up with a good idea for manufacturing or producing something and they go to the IDC for financial assistance, they are given a hundred reasons why the idea cannot work, only to find two months later that somebody's friend has set up the

same business with the assistance of the IDC.

They literally steal your ideas and sell it to their friends. That is what I am told. Maybe the IDC is different now under the new chairman, a man for whom I have the greatest respect.

When I told Mr Chambers about organising this Inventors and Innovators Fair he said it was a first-class idea. And that's the last I have heard of it. He did not even have the capacity to steal the idea.

We believe that the problem of housing can be solved, not by demolishing the shacks of helpless people, but by providing them with building lots upon which they can build their homes by community effort, such as is being done now on the Sou-Sou lands projects.

Once you have provided for the physical needs of the people you must then look after their social and psychological needs.

Everyone wants his child to be educated. Not only must there be a complete overhaul of the present system to provide meaningful and relevant education for the young, but there is need to provide a system of adult education so that both young and old may aspire to attain their full potential as human beings.

One of the highlights of the NAR policy and programme for education is the establishment of an Open University of Air. A person would be able to start from the bottom and work his way up to a university degree by listening to the radio and watching television.

The mass media has an important role to

play in the development of the nation. That role must be clearly defined and rigorously adhered to.

No man can be happy if he cannot live in peace. He can have all the wealth in the world and all the comforts of life, happiness will elude him if he is uncertain about the security of his person and that of his family.

How nice it would be to live in a society in which the police and the army are regarded as friends and protectors of the people and not as their enemy.

Why should it be impossible to have such a society? I shall tell you why. It has to do with the very question of alienation that I mentioned earlier.

MENTAL SHACKLES

Under the PNM we have not been able to shake off the mental shackles of colonialism. They have not allowed us to forget that we are we and the State belongs to them.

We have come to accept the fact that it is their civil service, their police force, their army, their houses, their bridges and their roads, to be used by them to keep themselves in power.

In that kind of setting the Police is seen as an enemy of the people. You would be surprised to know how many good policemen there are in the service.

And you would be even more surprised to know how many of them are concerned with the deteriorating image of the Police. Policemen do not fall from the sky. They live in the towns and villages and they have relatives on the block.

The fact is that they

too would like to see a society in which they are regarded as friends and protectors, respected and loved. If that be so, why can't we have such a society? We can, my brothers and sisters, we can. But we must first end the alienation. We must build a nation.

TROUBLE

I have taken the trouble to tell you these things, at the risk of boring you, because I want you to know that there is still hope for our country. All is not lost. There is hope.

I know how helpless you must feel when you look back and see that this country had the wherewithal to transform these two beautiful islands into a veritable paradise — and in ten short years the PNM oligarchy threw it all away. It is heart-breaking.

But our spirit is not broken. There is still enough fat in the economy to stop the downhill slide and swing the country around. What we need now more than ever, are inspired leaders and inspirational leadership.

We need men and ideas that would fire our souls and fill us with such evangelical zeal that olympian obstacles will be brushed aside with a single gaze of a united people.

Our nation cries out for a party that would unite our peoples and lead us to the promised land.

Hudson-Phillips Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 85 p 3

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

MR. KARK HUDSON-PHILLIPS, one of the two deputy political leaders of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Monday night rejected the "impression" that the meeting in Grenada by NAR top leaders to discuss the allocation of seats to be contested in the next general elections came just before the "breaking point" in the NAR.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips was speaking on the Trinidad and Tobago Television programme "TTT Report" in which he was interviewed by Dale Kolasingh.

Political Leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), one of the constituent units of NAR, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said also that while he held respect for the office of Prime Minister, he did not think Mr. George Chambers was best suited for the job.

Responding to an assertion from Mr. Kolasingh that the impression was given that before he, Mr. Basdeo Panday and Mr. A.N.R. Robinson agreed on the "Grenada Accord," NAR had just about reached the breaking point, Mr. Hudson-Phillips replied:

"Well, I wouldn't say break up. There was deep commitment to make sure it (NAR) worked. What was giving difficulty was trying at this stage to make an assessment of which was the best formula as far as the seats were concerned, to win.

"Of course there were varying views advanced as to who had done more work in 1981 in each particular constituency, who made the most inputs and that sort of thing.

"Now that we have the NAR it means there is no longer antagonism at a constituency level.

"We are going to have the ONR machinery combining with the National Alliance machinery not in an antagonistic but in a complementary way, and from that it is going to be less difficult, I think, to come on the best choice for a particular constituency.

"I may add that in the majority, the vast majority, of constituencies, there will be no problem whatsoever."

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Panday who were unanimously elected Political Leader and the other Deputy Political Leader respectively, of the NAR at its first Congress last Sunday, flew to Grenada over the Independence holiday weekend to thrash out the seats issue.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips, in defending the trip said it simply came about because he (Mr. Hudson-Phillips) was working in Grenada. A former Attorney General in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Hudson-Phillips was in Grenada leading the prosecution in the Bishop murder trial.

The formula arrived at, he explained, did not rule out himself or Alderman Suruj Rambachan, Chairman of the St Patrick County Council, from contesting the general elections, but he could not say which seat he would be fighting.

"I have no idea as yet where my party would put me to fight and I will fight anywhere my party put me to fight," he said.

Responding to Mr. Kolasingh's statement that suggestions were made that "external help" was obtained in arriving at the Grenada Accord, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said:

"External? It is always amusing to me the way certain people bandy external influences around. For instance, in the last general elections you will recall there was a big smokescreen about external interference, I will expect that sort of thing.

"But what is interesting is the sort of attack which is being made on the fact that we happened to be in Grenada, and the sort of personal attacks that are being made particularly against me.

"Because my parents happen to come from Grenada. I think the same can be said of at least one Cabinet minister, and I think at least half the population of Trinidad and Tobago is in that fortunate or unfortunate position.

"So at least I am in good company."

Told by Mr. Kolasingh that his public image was somehow seen as a problem in Trinidad and Tobago and in recent the Ryan Poll, he did not also seem to enjoy the trust and confidence of the people, Mr. Hudson-Phillips, responded:

PROPAGANDA FACILITIES

"Well, trust and confidence... I think the turning point was perhaps in 1973. In 1973 when the former Prime Minister indicated that he was leaving, the support for me to lead that party (the ruling PNM) was overwhelming.

"Now I think the circumstances in which he returned, as was his wont to do, he found it necessary to eliminate within the PNM and national level any sort of threat to his position.

"I don't think I am being untruthful when I say that the pattern of behaviour of the former leader, the former Prime Minister, indicated that he brooked no challenge whatsoever to his popularity and that he dealt very severely with it.

"This sort of 'image' is something of post-1973 vintage, it would appear, and then you must understand that this Government has tremendous propaganda facilities available to it and it guards these facilities very jealously."

This was displayed, he claimed, by the domination of the media, particularly so within the last four to five years, and the available resources it has at its command in order to sell a story.

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] THE executive of the National Alliance for Reconstruction met for the first time Wednesday night at the NAR office in Barataria. The meeting was chaired by Herbert Atwell, and in attendance were political leader A.N.R. Robinson and deputy leaders Karl Hudson-Phillips and Basdeo Panday. Four officers were appointed last night: Beau Tewarie as general secretary, Phillip Nunez as assistant general secretary, Martin Sampath as treasurer, and Ken Abblack as Public Relations Officer.

Formation of Committees

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Sep 85 p 12

[Text] THREE committees were appointed when the parliamentary arm of the newly-formed National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) held its first meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of the NAR's political leader, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson. Mr. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), said at the end of the session that the party was moving towards deepening and quickening the process of unity. The committees appointed were: Local Government and Local Government Issues; States Enterprises and Education.

DEMOCRACY AT WORK

Chairman of the first is Councillor Lennox Sankersingh. Members: Senator Dr. Brinsely Samaroo, Alderman Suruj Rambachan, Alderman Mervyn Assam, Councillor Jensen Fox, Councillor Latchman Seecharan and Mr. Govindra Roopnarine, member of parliament for Siparia.

Chairman of the State Enterprises body is Senator Lincoln Myers, Chairman of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee; Members: Mr. Kelvin Ramnath, member of parliament for Couva South; Senator Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Councillor Stanley John, Councillor Shair Ali and Councillor Arthur Sanderson.

Dr. Samaroo was appointed chairman of the third team. Members: Councillor Harry Goodial, Miss Pamela Nicholson, member of parliament for Tobago East; Dr. B. Kuarsingh, Mr. Trevor Sudama, member of parliament for Oropouche, and Councillor Abu Hassan Mohammed.

These committees, according to a NAR statement, would buttress the party's council — the policy making arm of NAR — by presenting reports which would strengthen the NAR's Platform for Democracy.

NAR's General Secretary, Dr. Beau Tewarie, commenting on the appointment of the committees, said: "What we see happening is democracy at work. These important teams will be providing the council with the tools to polish the Platform for Democracy, so that this instrument becomes the basis for the drafting of the NAR party manifesto."

Winding up the session, Mr. Robinson noted: "We are more than pleased with the business-like approach which characterised the day's proceedings."

"Such an approach demonstrates a determination by the parliamentary arm to face the grim responsibilities ahead."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DONALDSON: OPPOSITION PARTIES UNDER SOVIET, CUBAN THUMB

Claim Under Investigation

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 85 p 3

[Article by Phoolo Danny]

[Text]

LABOUR Minister John Donaldson disclosed at the weekend that agents of four Opposition political parties in coalition were planning to travel to Moscow or Havana soon to decide on their party's political strategy and choose candidates for various constituencies.

Donaldson, a former National Security minister, warned that the coalition was inviting foreign interference in the political business of the country. He said the matter was now the subject of investigation.

Donaldson, who formally opened the 25th annual conference of the San Fernando East Constituency of the People's National Movement at Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive School last Saturday, charged newspapers and commentators of "giving their approval to the fact that party political business of Trinidad and Tobago is now being transacted outside Trinidad and Tobago."

He said: "Four of the 32 political parties in Trinidad and Tobago met recently and decided in order to bring unity to their group they will some time in the near future meet in Moscow or Havana so that they can decide on their party's strategy and choose candidates for their various electoral districts."

Donaldson said if that happens "we will be told who intends to run Trinidad and Tobago in future and we will understand who has an interest in taking away from us the sovereignty which we earned as a party and as a nation."

The minister, who urged that "this pattern of external control of political activities in the Caribbean must never come to Trinidad and Tobago," called on PNMites to "start with the vanguard of protection of the political independence and perhaps as a party make our position known on this question of external interference in the internal political business of Trinidad and Tobago."

Donaldson further called on the delegates to abide by all decisions taken by the conference. He said: "We are being told that 1986 is the acid test for the PNM. There are those among us who wish to have us doubt ourselves, our ability and capacity for hard work, excellence, and so they are continually raising the barrier, but the barriers are imaginary."

Said Donaldson: "But let everyone know the PNM party is strong; in spite of internal and external attempts at sabotage, we will prevail. We believe that as a leading nation in the Caribbean where freedom exists, it is here that we must do our political business and our political homework. False alarm or not, difficulty or not, we have confidence in our party and our country as a free country where politicians can freely meet to plan to fight our battle right here."

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Sep 85 p 3

[Text]

ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) official Dr Romesh Mootoo rapped Labour Minister John Donaldson for remarks made about leaders of four Opposition groups going to Moscow or Havana for political directions on the forthcoming general election.

Dr Mootoo, a member of the coalition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) central executive, addressed a meeting of the ONR San Fernando West constituency on Tuesday night. Mootoo described Donaldson's remark as "tommy rot." Said he: "Has the mighty PNM fallen so low that it must resort to this kind of gutter campaigning?"

Donaldson had told the PNM San Fernando East constituency that he had information that the representatives of four Opposition groups in unity talks would travel to Moscow or Havana to receive directions on elections strategy and allocation of seats.

Said Dr Mootoo: "Any Moscow accord must be seen in the light of the Government's refusal to identify itself with anti-totalitarianism and anti-communism during the Grenada crisis." He added: "And was the late

Guyanese president Forbes Burnham while on his way to Bulgaria not invited to stop over at Piarco Airport for 90 minutes to hold talks with Prime Minister George Chambers?"

Said Dr Mootoo: "The big question is, what were the contents of the communique delivered to the Kremlin by Burnham on behalf of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago? Was it a promise of co-operation in return for financial assistance to boost the economy in time for the 1986 general election?"

Said Dr Mootoo: "Government's insidious search to the far left certainly lends credibility to the perception that we are being led into an easterly direction." Dr Mootoo said the ONR had information that the PNM was preparing a massive race campaign to divide the nation in time for the elections due next year.

Dr Mootoo told the party that the PNM must explain to the country why there was an over-run in expenditure of some \$4.9 million in the construction of the Rienzi/Kirton Highway. He said the Government must be held accountable for the abuse of the taxpayers' money.

CSO: 3298/1034

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PROBE FINDS NO PROGRESS ON AIRPORT HF RADIO, RADAR

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Sep 85 p 1

[Text]

CIVIL aviation development in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean is still seriously retarded by the failure of Government to put into operation at Piarco the expensive high frequency radio system which was purchased more than two years ago.

A Guardian investigation has revealed that the Air Traffic Control Centre at Piarco is likely to receive information only at the last moment of landing here, if an aircraft is hi-jacked within the Caribbean air-space controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

Reasons for this critical situation is Government's refusal to install radar equipment at the Air Traffic Control Tower at Piarco, and the current delay in making operational the expensive High Frequency radio system which has remained idle for more than two years.

According to our source, discussions on the necessity to acquire radar equipment for the Airport have been going on for the past 20 years without tangible progress.

In the meantime, the risk of air collisions without serious loss of life increases, because of the growing density of air traffic in the region.

In fact, it was reported that there have been at least three "near-misses" over the Caribbean area within the past year, mainly because air traffic co-ordinating procedures are being severely handicapped by the lack of radar scoping and scanning.

Reports indicate a lack of sensitivity on the part of the Civil Aviation Division and Government in understanding the threat to national security, when one considers the number of confirmed reports on the violation of air-space by unidentified aircraft within recent times.

If anything, there is the rising suspicion that there are frequent "cocaine drops" on the Southern coastline, which could be easily detected with the assistance of high quality radar equipment.

ON-JOB TRAINING

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), it is understood, has repeatedly expressed concern over the failure of the au-

thorities here to provide more up-to-date equipment at Piarco.

It has been hinted that the responsibility for the coverage of air control traffic in the Caribbean may have to be shifted to Barbados.

Trinidad and Tobago, it is said, has not kept pace with the age of fast flying aircraft, as it continues to maintain only limited procedural control of flying craft in the region.

Commenting on the high frequency upper side band radio equipment (HF) which was bought from an American firm, installation had been delayed through non-provision of a special power supply system.

Estimated at a cost of over \$250,000, the equipment was finally set in place a few months ago, but will be operational later this year when an adequate number of senior Air Traffic Controllers return from vacation leave.

Even so, it was added, intensive on-the-job training will have to be organised for approximately 40 per cent of the junior staff whose air traffic control experience is restricted to the use of VHF equipment.

Much of this, it is felt, are "patch-up" and outdated pieces of equipment which hopefully will be replaced by high quality systems recommended by the Canadian International Development Agency which has been contracted to provide technical assistance to upgrade Air Traffic Control facilities.

Questioned about the advantages to be gained from the use of high frequency equipment, it was stressed that immediate relief will be possible to reduce the loss of frequency transmissions over extended periods.

900,000 SQ. MILES

Piarco will be able to move closer towards covering most of the air space — approximately 900,000 square miles — designated for control by the Civil Aviation Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

As a result, the current limited access to air space coordination with countries extending as far as Southern Europe and West Africa will be eliminated.

Present VHF capacity and range meet about one-third of its required responsibility, and it is in this respect that the risk of air accidents is greatest.

Utilisation of this new equipment by the majority of Air Traffic Control staff at the airport will permit the local Civil Aviation Authority to practise the modern approach of sectorising air space, with the obvious benefits of improved selection and isolation of transmission frequencies.

The addition of radar equipment, it was stated, will move this country nearer to the position it should hold as the leaders in modern civil aviation procedures and practices in the region.

CSO: 3298/1037

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

NAR CODE-OF-CONDUCT TEAM--National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has appointed a committee to prepare a draft code of conduct to govern the behaviour of office holders within the party including members of parliament, borough and county councils. Announcing the formation of the committee Mr A.N.R. Robinson, political leader of NAR, which is an amalgamation of parties opposed to the ruling People's National Movement, said yesterday. "This is a very important committee which will embrace the relations among members of NAR, and oversee the behaviour of party officials and holders of public offices." Chairman is Mr Nizam Mohammed, the Member (Opposition) for Tabaquite. Members are: Senator Dr Shadeo Basdeo, Councillor Lennox Sankersingh, Chairman of the Association of County Councils; Assemblyman Hochoy Charles, Leader of Assembly Business in the Tobago House of Assembly and Councillor Jensen Fox, of the Port-of-Spain City Council. This is the fourth committee appointed by NAR since it was inaugurated on 8 September. Mr Robinson explained that the committee was asked to report to the next NAR executive meeting carded for Wednesday, 25 September. Appointment of the Mohammed team follows the recent flouting of party directives by members of county councils in the election of officers for the ensuing term. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Sep 85 p 3]

SUGAR LOSS--Caroni Limited stands to lose \$6 million in foreign exchange following the decision by the United States to reduce its sugar quota from the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago's quota has been reduced by 5,280 tons, Guyana's quota by 10,000 tons, Jamaica by 9,000 tons, Barbados by 5,280 tons and Belize by 9,000 tons. According to Mr Tony Deyal, Caroni's Public Relations Officer, at the U.S. price of \$1,027 a ton, this will mean a loss in foreign exchange to Caroni of approximately \$6 million. In addition, Caroni has been buying sugar cheaply outside and refining it. As a result it would now have to reduce its imports and use its own sugar. There is great difference between U.S. quota price of \$1,027 a ton and the EEC price of \$717. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Sep 85 p 3]

NEW BONN ENVOY--Mr Joachim-Richard Vogel, the new ambassador-designate of the Federal Republic of Germany to Trinidad and Tobago, is expected to take up office in Port-of-Spain at the beginning of next month. Mr Vogel, who will succeed Ambassador Dr Johannes Reitberger, last represented the Federal Republic of Germany as Consul General in Houston, Texas. He studied law and entered the

diplomatic service in 1962. Various assignments led him to Santo Domingo, Chicago, Recife, Hong Kong and Houston. Apart from his duties as Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, he will also be accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Federation of St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Republic of Suriname. Additionally, he will be Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. Mr Vogel, born 1936 in Berlin, is married and has one daughter. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Sep 85 p 3]

OIL FIND--Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited has found oil in a new well in the Barrackpore/Penal area. The oil well has begun flowing at 150 barrels a day and is the second successful well drilled by Trinidad Tesoro in its exploration efforts on land this year. According to a statement from the company, the well flowed from a depth of around 9,500 ft. The well is named Fyzabad 1015 and is in the Herrera Sands. The successful find is the most westerly to date from the sands, the company reported. It said it was significant because it extended the productive trend of the Herrera Sands along the Barrackpore-Penal anticline. The statement reads in part: "This is the second successful well in Trinidad Tesoro's exploration effort on land this year. The first well, Erin 53, drilled in the North Erin lease, has continued to produce satisfactorily. A second follow-up well was successfully completed, and is also producing very satisfactorily. A third follow-up well is currently being drilled at North Erin." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Sep 85 p 1]

QUEEN'S VISIT--Queen Elizabeth II of England will pay her second visit to Trinidad and Tobago from Friday, 1 November to Sunday, 3 November. She will be accompanied by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who will remain only for the first day of the visit. This visit is part of a ten-nation Commonwealth Caribbean tour beginning in Belize on 9 October. From Belize, the Queen will move to the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference to be held from 11-19 October. Other stops on the royal tour will be St Christopher and Nevis (23 October), Antigua and Barbuda (24 October), Dominica (25 October), Saint Lucia (26 October), St Vincent and the Grenadines (27 October), Barbados (28-29 October) and Grenada (31 October). While in the country, the Queen will visit several places of interest in Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and Tobago. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 11 Sep 85 p 1]

POTENTIAL ISCOTT PARTNERS--Agreement with two foreign partners was said yesterday to be in sight, as the Trinidad and Tobago Government fought to rescue its iron and steel plant from folding after over \$1.3 billion had been invested with only minimal returns. Contacted over the weekend, State, Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams maintained a cautious line: "We have been holding useful discussions with two representatives from the New Hamburg Steel Company and four people from the Austrian steelmakers, Voest Alpine," he said. Both other sources said that the recent visit by Prime Minister Mr George Chambers to the Vienna headquarters of Voest Alpine last month and the six-week presence of half a dozen key men from Hamburg Steel at the Point Lisas headquarters of ISCOTT, had paid big dividends: the European companies will be the long-sought partners. The ISCOTT union, in fact, told the GUARDIAN that the Germans had identified and cured major problems in the plant's most troublesome area, the meltshop. Production has increased considerably, the union said. [Excerpt] [By Kit Roxburgh] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Sep 85 p 1]

22 October 1985

LOAN FOR ELECTRICITY--The European Investment Bank (EIB) announced yesterday a loan for 12 million ECUs (9 1/4 million TT\$) towards improving the electricity grids in Trinidad and Tobago, laying a new submarine cable between the two islands and installing a 2.7 mw generating set. The funds have been advanced under the Second Lome Convention to Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) for 15 years at 5.55 percent, after deducting a 3 percent interest subsidy financed from European Development Fund resources. The scheme, costed at almost 40 million ECUs, is expected to contribute mainly towards creating heavy industries; it embraces 67 km of twin overhead lines between Point Lisas power station (700 mw) and the Port-of-Spain area, as well as a submarine cable, with three sub-stations between the main network in Trinidad and Tobago and the island of Tobago where a small stand-by and peak load generating set will also be installed at Tobago's only generating plant at Scarborough. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 85 p 16]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA--In Port-of-Spain, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced the appointment of Christopher Thomas as Trinidad and Tobago's ambassador to Venezuela. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Aug 85 FL]

MARIJUANA, ARMS FIND--Six persons were due to appear in the Sangre Grande court yesterday charged with being in possession of 1,830 rounds of 12 guage shotgun cartridges and 56 rounds of cured marijuana. The suspects were held on Tuesday when a party of policemen from the Narcotics Squad under Acting Inspector Ulric Sanoir executed a search warrant at a house at Plum Mitam, Biche. The lawmen seized the ammunition believed to be the biggest ammunition haul ever in Trinidad and Tobago. They also seized the marijuana which had a street value of \$250,000. One member of the family was also charged with offering a \$900 bribe to one of the policemen in an attempt to have the search warrant withdrawn. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Sep 85 p 3]

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